

A Dictionary of

# Cockney Rhyming Slang



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# Rhyming Slang

The term ‘cockney’ originally meant someone who was born within the sound of the Bow Bells of St. Mary-le-Bow Church in Cheapside, London, just down the road from St. Paul’s Cathedral. In those days, all of the City of London would have been within that sound.

Today, very few people would be born within the sound of Bow Bells. The area is largely filled with banks, financial institutions and offices.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

From Glasgow there is

<b>deaf</b>	bully beef
	Allowing for the Scottish accent

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

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

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

Other sources are:

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



## **Contents**

Cockney – English      9 – 43

English – Cockney      47 – 77





**Abergavenny**

penny

**Adam and Eve**

believe

*Would you Adam and Eve it?*

to leave

To make a hurried departure

**airs and graces**

faces

Epsom races

braces

**Albert Hall**

wall

**alderman's eyes**

flies – house-flies

**alderman's nail**

tail – particularly a dog's

**all afloat**

coat

See *I'm afloat*

**alligator**

later

**almond rocks**

socks

*Me almonds are wet*

See *peppermint rocks*

**Alphonse**

ponce

**Andy Cain**

rain

**Andy MacNish**

fish – generally fried fish

**Anna Maria**

fire – a domestic hearth

**'apenny dip**

ship

**apples and pears**

stairs

**apples and rice**

nice

**apple fritter**

bitter – beer

**apple pie**

sky

**apple pips**

lips

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



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

<b>band of hope</b>	soap – From the name of the Temperance Mission
<b>Barnaby Rudge</b>	judge
<b>Barnet Fair</b>	hair
<b>Barney Moke</b>	poke – pocket
<b>bat and wicket</b>	ticket
<b>bath-bun</b>	son sun See <i>currant-bun, penny-bun</i>
<b>battle-cruiser</b>	boozer – public house
<b>bazaar</b>	bar – of a public house
<b>bear's paw</b>	saw – the tool
<b>Beecham's pi11(s)</b>	hill(s) bill(s) – referring to the notice displayed by a beggar still – photograph
<b>Beecham's pills</b>	testicles – Pronounced testi-kills <i>Don't talk pills</i> – stupidity
<b>beef and ham</b>	pram
<b>beef-hearts</b>	farts beans The double meaning with beans associated with wind
<b>bees and honey</b>	Money <i>I ain't got any bees left</i> See <i>pot of honey</i>
<b>beggar my neighbour</b>	on the Labour (Exchange) i.e. on the dole
<b>bell ringers</b>	fingers
<b>Benny Hill</b>	till

<b>Berk</b>	fool 'Berk' is short for 'Berkshire Hunt', meaning cunt, as in fool
<b>Betty Lee</b>	tea See <i>Rosy Lea</i>
<b>Big Ben</b>	ten – £10
<b>Billy Prescott</b>	waistcoat See <i>Charlie Prescott</i>
<b>bird lime</b>	time – time of day or prison sentence
<b>biscuits and cheese</b>	knees
<b>bits and bats</b>	knick-knacks – specifically assorted jewellery
<b>blackbird and thrush</b>	brush – especially shoes See <i>song of the thrush</i>
<b>bladder of fat</b>	hat
<b>bladder of lard</b>	playing card
<b>blue ruin</b>	gin See <i>Brian O'Linn, mother's ruin</i>
<b>boat race</b>	face
<b>Bob Squash</b>	wash – the washing section of a public convenience <i>Working the Bob</i> is picking pockets from hanging coats
<b>Bonnie Dundee</b>	flea
<b>bo-peep</b>	sleep
<b>boracic lint</b>	skint – penniless See <i>pink lint</i>
<b>bottle and glass</b>	arse <i>On the bottle</i> – male prostitution

<b>bottle of beer</b>	ear
<b>bottle of fizz</b>	whizz – to steal
<b>bow and arrow</b>	sparrow
<b>Brahms and Liszt</b>	pissed
<b>brass tacks</b>	facts – details A rare case of the whole phrase being used
<b>bread and butter</b>	gutter
<b>bread and cheese</b>	sneeze
<b>bread and lard</b>	hard – as in lack of sympathy <i>Ain't that bread and lard?</i>
<b>Brian O'Linn</b>	gin Usually reduced to <i>Brian</i> or <i>Bri</i>
<b>Brighton sands</b>	hands
<b>Bristol Cities</b>	titties <i>A nice pair of Bristols</i>
<b>Britney Spears</b>	ears beers
<b>Brussels sprout</b>	boy scout a tout – a bookmaker's agent or a racing commentator clout
<b>bubble and squeak</b>	beak – the magistrate speak – inform
<b>bucket and pail</b>	jail
<b>bull and cow</b>	row – noise
<b>bullock's horn</b>	pawn
<b>bully beef</b>	chief – the chief warden
<b>bung it in</b>	gin

<b>burnt cinder</b>	window – pronounced winder <i>A stiff burnt</i> – a plate-glass window
<b>Burton on Trent</b>	rent
<b>bushel and peck</b>	neck – specifically the throat <i>Get this do your bushel</i> <i>See half a peck</i>
<b>bushel o’coke</b>	bloke – a man <i>See heap of coke</i>
<b>Bushey Park</b>	lark – joke
<b>butcher’s hook</b>	look <i>Have a butcher’s at this</i>
<b>C</b> <b>cab rank</b>	bank
<b>Cain and Abel</b>	table
<b>Cambridge punt</b>	cunt <i>See Berkshire Hunt, Joe Hunt</i>
<b>Camden Town</b>	brown – copper coin <i>See Kentish Town</i>
<b>canal boat</b>	tote
<b>can of oil</b>	boil – swelling Usually reduced to <i>canov</i>
<b>Cape of Good Hope</b>	soap <i>See Charlie Pope</i>
<b>Captain Cook(s)</b>	book(s) – library betting book
<b>careless talk</b>	piece of chalk – in darts
<b>car park</b>	nark – police informer
<b>carpet bag</b>	drag – three months imprisonment

<b>carving knife</b>	wife
<b>cash and carry</b>	marry
<b>cat and mouse</b>	house
<b>cattle truck</b>	fuck <i>He's cattled – ruined</i> <i>She needs a good cattling</i>
<b>Chalk Farm</b>	arm
<b>Charing Cross</b>	horse – rhyming with -aws
<b>Charles James Fox</b>	box – in the theatre
<b>Charlie Dilke</b>	milk
<b>Charlie Frisky</b>	whisky <i>See I'm so frisky</i>
<b>Charlie Howard</b>	coward
<b>Charlie Mason</b>	basin – pudding To have a share in; a basinful
<b>Charlie Pope</b>	soap <i>See Cape of Good Hope</i>
<b>Charlie Prescott</b>	waistcoat <i>See Billy Prescott, Colonel Prescott</i>
<b>Charlie Randy</b>	brandy <i>See Jack a Dandy</i>
<b>cheerful giver</b>	liver
<b>cheese and kisses</b>	the misses – wife
<b>cherry hogs</b>	dogs – greyhound races Reduced to <i>cherries</i>
<b>cherry ripe</b>	pipe tripe – rubbish
<b>Chevy Chase</b>	face

<b>china plate</b>	mate <i>Me ole china</i>
<b>chips and peas</b>	knees
<b>chocolate whirl</b>	girl See <i>Winds do whirl,</i> <i>Twist and twirl</i>
<b>chop(ping) sticks</b>	six – Bingo
<b>chunk of beef</b>	chief – boss
<b>clickety-click</b>	sixty six – Bingo
<b>clothes pegs</b>	legs See <i>Scotch pegs</i>
<b>coals and coke</b>	broke
<b>coat and badge</b>	cadge
<b>cobbler's awls</b>	balls – testicles <i>That's a load of cobblers</i>
<b>cock(le) and hen</b>	ten – for ten shillings ten years in jail
<b>cock linnet</b>	minute
<b>cockroach</b>	coach
<b>cock sparrow</b>	barrow
<b>coffee and cocoa</b>	say so <i>I should cocoa</i>
<b>Colney Hatch(es)</b>	match(es)
<b>Colonel Prescott</b>	waistcoat
<b>Conan Doyle</b>	boil
<b>corns and bunions</b>	onions <i>He knows his corns</i>
<b>country cousin</b>	dozen

<b>couple of bob</b>	damp swab – used in darts
<b>cow and calf</b>	laugh half
<b>cow’s lick</b>	nick
<b>crowded space</b>	suitcase
<b>crust of bread</b>	head – head not mind
<b>cuddle and kiss</b>	miss – girl
<b>currant bun</b>	son sun
<b>currant-cakie</b>	shaky – after drinking
<b>custard and jelly</b>	telly
<b>cut and carried</b>	married A woman left home and provided for by her husband
<b>cuts and scratches</b>	matches From cheap matches which cut the box but did not light



<b>daffadown dilly</b>	silly
<b>Daily Mail</b>	tale – con man’s trick nail
<b>daisy roots</b>	boots – including shoes <i>Need a new pair of daisies</i>
<b>Davy Large</b>	barge
<b>day and night</b>	light – ale
<b>Denis Law</b>	policeman
<b>Derby Kelley</b>	belly
<b>deuce and ace</b>	face

<b>deaf and dumbs</b>	plums <i>I'll have a pound of deafs</i>
<b>dickory dock</b>	clock cock – penis
<b>Dick Turpin</b>	thirteen – darts
<b>dicky bird</b>	word – of honour
<b>dicky dirt</b>	shirt
<b>didn't ought</b>	port – the drink
<b>dig in the grave</b>	shave
<b>ding-dong</b>	sing-song song
<b>ding dong bell</b>	hell
<b>dinky-doo</b>	twenty two – Bingo
<b>Dr. Crippen</b>	dripping – bread and dripping
<b>dog and bone</b>	phone
<b>do me good</b>	wood – timber
<b>do me goods</b>	woods – Woodbines, cigarettes
<b>door knob</b>	bob – one shilling <i>See kettle on the hob,</i> <i>Touch me on the knob</i>
<b>drum and fife</b>	wife knife
<b>Drummond and Roce</b>	knife and fork – from drum and fife, knife; and roast pork, fork. Roast reduced to <i>roce</i>
<b>Dublin tricks</b>	bricks
<b>Duchess of Fife</b>	wife <i>She's me old Dutch</i>

**Duke of Kent**

rent

**Duke of York**

walk

talk

cork

chalk

fork – finger – fist –

*Put up your Dukes*

**dustbin lids**

kids

See *saucepan lids*



**early door**

whore

**early hours**

flowers

**earwig**

twig – understand

**eau de Cologne**

telephone

Reduced to *odour*

**Edna May**

way

**eighteen pence**

sense

**elephant's trunk**

drunk

**engineers and stokers**

brokers – referring to a bailiff

**engineer's spanner**

tanner – old sixpence



**family tree**

lavatory

**far and near**

beer

**feather and flip**

kip

bed

**feather plucker**

fucker

See *pheasant plucker*

<b>field of wheat</b>	street
<b>fife and drum</b>	bum
<b>fine and dandy</b>	brandy
<b>finger and thumb</b>	rum <i>See Tom Thumb</i>
<b>Finsbury Park</b>	arc – arc-lamp
<b>fireman’s hose</b>	nose
<b>first of May</b>	say
<b>fisherman’s daughter</b>	water <i>See miller’s daughter</i>
<b>five to two</b>	Jew
<b>fleas and itchers</b>	pictures – cinema
<b>flowery dell</b>	cell – prison
<b>four by two</b>	Jew
<b>fourth of July</b>	tie
<b>France and Spain</b>	rain
<b>Friar Tuck</b>	fuck <i>I don’t give a Friars</i>
<b>fried eggs</b>	legs
<b>frog and toad</b>	road
<b>front wheel skid</b>	yid



<b>garden gate</b>	magistrate
<b>gay and frisky</b>	eight whisky <i>See I’m so frisky</i>

<b>gay and hearty</b>	party
<b>German band</b>	hand
<b>German flutes</b>	boots
<b>Gertie Lee</b>	thirty three – Bingo
<b>giggle and titter</b>	bitter – beer
<b>ginger beer</b>	tear queer engineer
<b>ginger pop</b>	slop – police constable, via ‘ecilop’
<b>gipsy’s warning</b>	morning
<b>give and take</b>	cake – also for a wad of money
<b>Glasgow boat</b>	coat
<b>Glasgow Rangers</b>	strangers – warning for the police coming
<b>glass of beer</b>	ear
<b>glorious sinner</b>	dinner
<b>God forbid</b>	kid <i>The godfors are back</i> Yid, Jew lid
<b>golliwogs (gollies)</b>	dogs – greyhound races
<b>goofy gear</b>	ear
<b>goose and duck</b>	truck
<b>gooseberry pudding</b>	old woman
<b>goose’s neck</b>	cheque <i>To sausage a goose –</i> <i>To cash a cheque</i> <i>See sausage and mash</i>
<b>Gordon and Gotch</b>	watch

<b>grasshopper</b>	copper – police informer
<b>greengages</b>	wages <i>I've just got me greens</i>
<b>green pea</b>	key
<b>grumble and grunt</b>	cunt <i>See Berkshire Hunt, Joe Hunt</i>
<b>Gunga Din</b>	gin




<b>haddock and bloater</b>	motor
<b>half-a-lick</b>	sick
<b>half an Oxford scholar</b>	half a dollar – half a crown in old money
<b>half a peck</b>	neck <i>See bushel and peck</i>
<b>half-inch</b>	pinch – steal pinch – arrest
<b>half ounce</b>	bounce – cheat
<b>halfpenny</b>	<i>See 'apenny</i>
<b>ham and beef</b>	chief – warder
<b>ham and legs</b>	legs
<b>hammer and nail</b>	tail trail
<b>Hampstead Heath</b>	teeth Pronounced <i>Ampsteads</i> or <i>Amps</i> <i>See Hounslow Heath</i>
<b>Hampton Wick</b>	prick <i>He gets on my wick</i>
<b>ha'penny dip</b>	ship

<b>happy hours</b>	flowers
<b>harbour light</b>	all right
<b>Hardwicke Grange</b>	change – money
<b>Harry Lauder</b>	border – the side wings on a stage
<b>Harry Nash</b>	cash
<b>Harry Randle</b>	candle
<b>Harry Tagg</b>	bag
<b>Harry Tate</b>	state – of mind mate
<b>Harry Wrag</b>	fag – cigarette
<b>Harvey Nichol</b>	pickel – predicament
<b>Harvey Nichols</b>	pickles
<b>hay stack</b>	back
<b>heap of coke</b>	bloke See <i>bushel o' coke</i>
<b>hearth rug</b>	mug – drinking
<b>hearts of oak</b>	broke – money
<b>heavens above</b>	love
<b>hedge and ditch</b>	pitch – cricket or sports
<b>Henry Halls</b>	balls – human
<b>Herman Finck</b>	ink
<b>hey-diddle-diddle</b>	fiddle – violin fiddle – swindle
<b>highland frisky</b>	whisky See <i>I'm so frisky</i>
<b>hit and miss</b>	kiss piss

<b>Hobson's choice</b>	voice
<b>holla boys holla</b>	collar
<b>holy friar</b>	liar
<b>horse and cart</b>	tart
<b>horse and trap</b>	clap – VD crap See <i>pony and trap</i>
<b>horses and carts</b>	darts
<b>hot cross bun</b>	on the run nun
<b>Hounslow Heath</b>	teeth See <i>Hampstead Heath</i>
<b>hurricane deck</b>	neck



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

<b>Irish rose</b>	nose – mainly a drunk’s red nose	
<b>Irish stew</b>	true <i>All too Irish</i>	
<b>iron hoof</b>	poof – homosexual	
<b>iron horse</b>	toss – a coin	
<b>iron tank</b>	bank See <i>tin tank</i>	
<b>Isle of Wight</b>	right all right	
<b>I suppose</b>	nose	
	<b>Jack a Dandy</b>	brandy
	<b>Jack O’Dandy</b>	brandy
	<b>Jack alive</b>	five – Bingo or £5
	<b>Jack and Jill</b>	till – cash bill hill
<b>jackdaw</b>	jaw	
<b>jackdaw and rook</b>	book	
<b>Jack Jones</b>	alone on one’s own <i>He’s on ’is Jack</i> See <i>Pat Malone, Tod Sloan</i>	
<b>Jack Tar</b>	bar – in a public house	
<b>Jack the Ripper</b>	kipper	
<b>jam jar</b>	car tram-car	

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

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

**joy of my life** wife  
See *trouble and strife,*  
*war and strife, worry and strife*

**Joynson Hicks** six

**K**

**Kate and Sidney** steak and kidney pudding

**Kate Karney** army

**Kennington Lane** pain

**Kentish Town** brown

See *Camden Town*

**kettle on the hob** bob – one shilling in old currency  
Bob – Robert

**Khyber Pass** arse  
*Stick that up your Khyber*

**kidney punch** lunch

**King Dick** brick  
bricklayer

**King Dickie** brickie

**King Lear** ear – reference to ear biting  
i.e. borrowing money  
queer

**L**

**lace curtain** Burton – beer

**la-di-dah** car – referring to a new car

**Lady Godiva** fiver – £5

<b>Lady of the Manor</b>	tanner – old sixpenny piece
<b>Lakes of Killarney</b>	balmy – foolish
<b>laugh and joke</b>	smoke
<b>lay me in the gutter</b>	butter
<b>lemon squasher</b>	washer
<b>lemon squeezer</b>	geezer – man
<b>Levy and Frank</b>	want
<b>Liffey water</b>	Porter – the beer
<b>light and dark</b>	park
<b>Lilian Gish</b>	fish
<b>Lilley &amp; Skinner</b>	dinner
<b>Lincoln's Inn</b>	finn – a £5 note fin – the hand gin
<b>linen draper</b>	paper
<b>lion's lair</b>	chair
<b>L.K. Clark</b>	mark – place and time of starting
<b>loaf of bread</b>	head – mind, common sense <i>See crust of bread</i>
<b>lollipop</b>	shop – to inform against
<b>loop the loop</b>	soup <i>Want some more loopers?</i>
<b>Lord Lovell</b>	shovel
<b>Lord Mayor</b>	swear
<b>Lord of the Manor</b>	tanner – old sixpenny piece
<b>lost and found</b>	pound
<b>Lousy Brown</b>	Rose and Crown – pub name

**Lucy Locket** pocket  
**lump of ice** advice  
**lump of lead** head – a hangover head  
Not reduced  
See *pound of lead*



**macaroni** pony – £25  
Reduced to *macker*

**Madam De Luce** spruce – deceive  
*Don't give that old madam*

**mad Mick** prick  
See *Pat and Mick, Uncle Dick*

**Mae West** chest  
breast

**Major Loder** soda – soda-water

**Major Stevens** evens – equal odds

**man and wife** knife

**Maria Monk** spunk

**Marie Correlli** telly – television

**Mark Foy** boy

**Mary Ann** hand

**Mary Blane** train

**me and you** blue  
menu

**merry-go-round** pound – money

**Micky Mouse** house – the theatre, the audience

**milk jug** mug – a fool

<b>miller's daughter</b>	water <i>See fisherman's daughter</i>
<b>mince pies</b>	eyes <i>See mutton pies, pudding and pie</i>
<b>misbehave</b>	shave
<b>mocking bird</b>	word
<b>Molly Malone</b>	phone
<b>Molly O'Morgan</b>	organ
<b>monkeys' tails</b>	nails
<b>mortar and trowel</b>	towel
<b>mother and daughter</b>	quarter – quarter-posts for mooring
<b>Mother Hubbard</b>	cupboard
<b>mother of pearl</b>	girl
<b>mother's ruin</b>	gin <i>See blue ruin, Brian O'Linn</i>
<b>Mrs. Duckett</b>	bucket fuck it
<b>Mrs. Chant</b>	aunt – as a euphemism for toilet
<b>muffin baker</b>	Quaker
<b>Mutt and Jeff</b>	deaf
<b>mutton pies</b>	eyes <i>See mince pies</i>
<b>my mother's away</b>	the other day
<b>my word</b>	turd



**Nancy Lea**

tea

See *Rosy Lea*

**nanny goat**

boat

coat

Tote

**National Debt**

bet

**Naughton and Gold**

cold – in the head

**near and far**

bar – pub

car

**Ned Skinner**

dinner

See *Lilley & Skinner*

**needle and pin**

gin

**Nellie Blighs**

flies – house-flies

**Nervo and Knox**

socks

docks

goggle box – television

**Newington Butts**

guts – courage

**nits and lice**

starting price

**Noah's Ark**

nark – informer

lark – fun

**north and south**

mouth

**no soap**

no hope

**nose and chin**

win



**oak**

joke

**oak and ash**

cash

**Obadiah**

fire

See *Jeremiah*

<b>oh my dear</b>	beer
<b>oily rag</b>	fag – cigarette
<b>okey-doke</b>	poke – pocket
<b>Old King Cole</b>	the dole
<b>old pot and pan</b>	old man – father or husband
<b>Oliver Twist</b>	fist
<b>once a week</b>	beak – magistrate Reduced to <i>oncer</i> cheek
<b>one and eight</b>	plate
<b>one and t’other</b>	mother brother
<b>one and two</b>	loo – toilet
<b>one for his nob</b>	bob – shilling in old currency
<b>on the floor</b>	poor
<b>on the ooze</b>	on the booze See <i>River Ouse</i>
<b>orchestra stalls</b>	balls – testicles
<b>Oscar Asche</b>	cash
<b>over the stile</b>	sent for trial
<b>Owen Nares</b>	chairs
<b>Oxford scholar</b>	dollar – 5 shillings in old currency
<b>Oxo cube</b>	tube – London Underground



**Paddy Rammer**  
**panorama**

hammer  
hammer

<b>Pat and Mick</b>	prick
<b>Pat and Mike</b>	bike
<b>Pat Malone</b>	alone – without equal one one's own See <i>Jack Jones, Tod Sloan</i>
<b>peas in the pot</b>	hot <i>It's too peasy in 'ere</i>
<b>Peckham Rye</b>	tie shy
<b>pen and ink</b>	stink
<b>pen and inker</b>	stinker
<b>penn'orth of chalk</b>	walk – a term of dismissal
<b>penny a mile</b>	smile
<b>penny a pound</b>	ground
<b>penny bun</b>	sun son See <i>bath bun, currant bun</i>
<b>penny come quick</b>	trick
<b>peppermint rocks</b>	socks See <i>almond rocks</i>
<b>pheasant plucker</b>	fucker See <i>feather plucker</i>
<b>photo-finish</b>	Guinness
<b>piccolo and flute</b>	suit See <i>whistle and flute</i>
<b>pick and choose</b>	booze
<b>pickled pork</b>	talk See <i>rabbit and pork</i>
<b>pig's ear</b>	beer

<b>pig's fry</b>	tie
<b>pillar and post</b>	ghost
<b>pimple and blotch</b>	Scotch – whisky
<b>pimple and wort</b>	quart – pub drinks measure
<b>pineapple and wart</b>	quart
<b>pineapple chunk</b>	bunk
<b>pink lint</b>	skint
<b>pitch and fill</b>	bill – a notice used by beggars <i>See Beecham's pill</i>
<b>pitch and toss</b>	boss
<b>plain and gravy</b>	navy <i>See pudding and gravy, soup and gravy</i>
<b>plates of meat</b>	feet
<b>pleasure and pain</b>	rain
<b>Polly Flinder</b>	window
<b>pony and trap</b>	crap <i>See horse and trap</i>
<b>Pope of Rome</b>	home
<b>pot and pan</b>	old man
<b>potatoes in the mold</b>	cold <i>It ain't half taters</i>
<b>pot of honey</b>	money <i>See bees and honey</i>
<b>potato peeling</b>	shilling – old currency
<b>pound of lead</b>	head <i>See lump of lead</i>
<b>premier</b>	beer
<b>pride and joy</b>	boy

<b>Prussian guard</b>	card – playing card in Bingo
<b>pudding and gravy</b>	navy See <i>plain and gravy</i>
<b>pudding and pie</b>	eye
<b>pudding and pies</b>	eyes See <i>mince pies</i>
<b>puff and dart</b>	heart start – of a race
<b>push in the truck</b>	fuck See <i>trolley and truck</i>



<b>Quaker oats</b>	coats
<b>quarter to two</b>	Jew See <i>ten to two, four by two</i>
<b>Queen's Park Rangers</b>	strangers



<b>rabbit and pork</b>	talk <i>He doesn't half rabbit on</i> See <i>pickled pork</i>
<b>raspberry tart</b>	fart – <i>blowing a raspberry</i> heart
<b>rat and mouse</b>	house louse – informer
<b>rattle and clank</b>	bank
<b>rattle and hiss</b>	piss
<b>Rawalpindi</b>	windy – the weather
<b>read and write</b>	fight

<b>red rose</b>	toes
<b>rhubarb</b>	sub – an advance on wages
<b>rhubarb pill</b>	bill
<b>Richard the Third</b>	bird – feathered, and meaning disapproval from an audience
<b>rip and tear</b>	swear
<b>River Ouse</b>	booze <i>See on the Ouze</i>
<b>roast pork</b>	talk – referring to a complaint <i>Are you roasting again?</i>
<b>Robert E. Lee</b>	quay
<b>Robin Hood</b>	good
<b>Robinson and Cleaver</b>	fever
<b>rock of ages</b>	wages
<b>rocks and boulder</b>	shoulder
<b>rolling billows</b>	pillows
<b>Rolls Royce</b>	voice
<b>Rory O’More</b>	door floor
<b>rosebuds</b>	spuds – potatoes
<b>Rose of Thileen</b>	green
<b>Rosy Lea</b>	tea <i>See River Leas, Betty Lee, Nancy Lee</i>
<b>round me’s</b>	<i>See round the houses</i>
<b>round the haystack</b>	round the back – of a building or meaning going to the lavatory
<b>round the houses</b>	trouses – trousers Reduced to <i>round me’s</i>

<b>Royal Mail</b>	bail
<b>rub-a-dub-dub</b>	pub sub – wage advance
<b>Russian Turk</b>	work



<b>sailors on the sea</b>	tea
<b>saint and sinner</b>	dinner <i>See Jimmy Skinner, Lilley &amp; Skinner</i>
<b>Salford docks</b>	rocks
<b>salmon and trout</b>	stout – beer
<b>salt and pepper</b>	leper
<b>Sandy McNab</b>	cab
<b>San Toy</b>	boy <i>See Saveloy</i>
<b>saucepan lids</b>	kids
<b>sausage and mash</b>	cash <i>Not a sausage left</i>
<b>sausage roll</b>	Pole – Polish person
<b>saveloy</b>	young boy <i>See San Toy</i>
<b>Scapa Flow</b>	go – run away
<b>Scotch mist</b>	fist
<b>Scotch pegs</b>	legs
<b>Scottish reel</b>	peel
<b>Sexton Blake</b>	cake
<b>shake and shiver</b>	river

<b>ship in full sail</b>	pint of ale Reduced to <i>ship</i>
<b>shower bath</b>	half – ten shillings in old currency, 50 pence
<b>Silas Hocking</b>	stocking
<b>Sinbad the sailor</b>	tailor
<b>six months' hard</b>	playing card – Bingo
<b>skin and blister</b>	sister
<b>sky pocket</b>	pocket
<b>slave and Turk</b>	work See <i>Russian Turk</i>
<b>smoked haddock</b>	paddock
<b>soldier bold</b>	cold – in the head See <i>warrior bold</i>
<b>song of the thrush</b>	brush See <i>blackbird and thrush</i>
<b>sorry and sad</b>	bad
<b>soup and gravy</b>	navy See <i>plain and gravy</i>
<b>South of France</b>	dance
<b>spin and plate</b>	mate
<b>spit and drag</b>	fag – cigarette
<b>stammer and stutter</b>	butter
<b>stand at ease</b>	fleas cheese
<b>stand from under</b>	thunder
<b>steak-and-kidney pie</b>	eye See <i>mince pies</i>
<b>steam roller</b>	bowler – hat

**steam tug** mug – a fool  
*He's a right steamer*

**struggle and strain** train

**sugar and honey** money

**swallow and sigh** collar and tie

**swear and cuss** bus

**Sweeney Todd** flying squad



**tale of two cities** titties – breasts

**tartan banner** tanner – sixpence in old currency

**tea grout** boy scout  
*See Brussel sprout*

**tea leaf** thief

**tea leafing** thieving

**tea-pot lid** quid  
Yid – a Jew  
*See tin lid*

**ten to two** Jew  
*See quarter to two, four by two*

**there you are** bar – in public house

**these and those** clothes

**threepenny bits** tits  
shits

**tiddler's bait** late

**tiddlywink** pink  
drink  
*A little bit tiddly*

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

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



<b>Uncle Dick</b>	sick <i>Feeling dicky today</i>
	prick
<b>Uncle Fred</b>	bread
<b>Uncle Ned</b>	bed
<b>Uncle Willy</b>	silly chilly



<b>Vera Lynn</b>	gin
	grin
<b>Vicar of Bray</b>	tray



<b>Walter Joyce</b>	voice
<b>warrior bold</b>	cold – a cold in the head <i>See soldier bold</i>
<b>weasel and stoat</b>	coat
<b>weep and wail</b>	tale – a yarn
<b>weeping willow</b>	pillow <i>See tit-willow</i>
<b>West Ham Reserves</b>	nerves <i>He gets on me West Ham's</i>
<b>Westminster Abbey</b>	shabby
<b>whip</b>	ship – referring to the ship one is serving on
<b>whistle and flute</b>	suit <i>Love the new whistle</i>
<b>whistle and foot</b>	loot – money

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



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



English – Cockney





**advice**

**all right**

**alone** – on one's own or  
without equal

**arc** – arc-lamp

**arm**

**army**

**arse**

**arse** – referring to a male  
prostitute

**aunt** – a relative and as a  
euphemism for toilet

lump of ice

harbour light

Isle of Wight

Tod Sloan

*She's on her Tod*

Pat Malone

Jack Jones

Finsbury Park

Chalk Farm

Kate Karney

Khyber Pass

*Stick it up yer Khyber*

bottle and glass

*On the bottle*

Mrs. Chant

*I'm off to see me aunt*



**back**

**bad**

**bag**

**bail**

**balls**

**balls**

**balls** – human

**balmy** – foolish

hay stack

sorry and sad

Harry Tagg

Royal Mail

orchestra stalls

cobbler's awls

*That's a load of cobblers*

Henry Halls

Lakes of Killarney

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

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

<b>booze</b>	pick and choose River Ouse
<b>boozer</b>	battle cruiser
<b>border</b> – the side wings on a stage	Harry Lauder
<b>boss</b>	pitch and toss
<b>bottle</b>	Aristotle Reduced to <i>Arry</i>
<b>bounce</b> – cheat	half ounce
<b>bowler</b> – hat	steam roller
<b>box</b> – theatre	Charles James Fox
<b>boy</b>	Mark Foy pride and joy San Toy saveloy
<b>boy scout</b>	tea grout Brussels sprout
<b>braces</b>	airs and graces
<b>brandy</b>	Charlie Randy fine and dandy Jack a Dandy Jack O’Dandy
<b>bread</b>	Uncle Fred
<b>breast</b>	Mae West
<b>breath</b>	true till death
<b>brick</b>	King Dick
<b>brickie</b>	King Dickie
<b>bricklayer</b>	King Dickie
<b>bricks</b>	Dublin tricks

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



<b>cab</b>	Sandy McNab
<b>cadge</b>	coat and badge
<b>cake</b>	Sexton Blake
<b>cake</b> – also for a wad of money	give and take
<b>candle</b>	Harry Randle
<b>car</b>	jam jar near and far
<b>car</b> – referring to a new car	la-di-dah
<b>card</b> – in Bingo	Prussian guard

<b>card</b> – playing card	bladder of lard
<b>cash</b>	Harry Nash oak and ash Oscar Asche sausage and mash <i>Not a sausage left</i>
<b>cell</b> – prison	flowery dell
<b>chair</b>	I'll be there lion's lair
<b>chairs</b>	Owen Nares
<b>chalk</b>	Duke of York
<b>change</b> – money	Hardwicke Grange
<b>cheek</b>	once a week Reduced to <i>oncer</i>
<b>cheese</b>	stand at ease
<b>cheque</b>	goose's neck total wreck
<b>chest</b>	Mae West
<b>chief</b> – boss	bully beef chunk of beef
<b>chief</b> –warder	ham and beef
<b>chilly</b>	Uncle Willy
<b>clap</b> – VD	horse and trap
<b>clock</b>	dickory dock
<b>clothes</b>	these and those
<b>clout</b>	Brussels sprout
<b>coach</b>	cockroach

<b>coat</b>	all afloat Glasgow boat I'm afloat weasel and stoat
<b>coats</b>	Quaker oats
<b>cock</b> – penis	dickory dock
<b>cold</b>	potatoes in the mold <i>It ain't 'alf taters</i>
<b>cold</b> – a cold in the head	warrior bold soldier bold Naughton and Gold
<b>collar</b>	holla boys holla Tommy Roller
<b>collar and tie</b>	swallow and sigh
<b>cook</b>	babbling brook
<b>copper</b> – police informer	grasshopper
<b>cork</b>	Duke of York
<b>corner</b> – street corner	Johnnie Horner <i>Gone round the Johnnie</i> – meaning gone for a drink
<b>coward</b>	Charlie Howard
<b>crap</b>	horse and trap pony and trap
<b>crook</b>	Joe Rook babbling brook
<b>crust</b> – of bread	you must
<b>cunt</b>	grumble and grunt Cambridge punt Joe Hunt Reduced to <i>Joey</i>

**cupboard**

Mother Hubbard



**damp** – a swab in darts

couple of bob

**dance**

South of France

**darts**

horses and carts

**deaf**

Mutt and Jeff

**dinner**

glorious sinner  
Jimmy Skinner  
Lilley & Skinner  
Ned Skinner  
saint and sinner

**dirty**

two thirty

**docks**

Nervo and Knox

**dog**

Cherry Hogg

**dogs** – greyhound races

golliwogs  
Reduced to *gollies*  
cherry hogs  
Reduced to *cherries*

**dole**

Old King Cole

**dollar** – 5 shillings in  
old currency

Oxford scholar

**door**

Rory O'More

**door mat**

tom cat

**dozen**

country cousin

**drag** – three months in prison

carpet bag

**drink**

tiddlywink  
*A little bit tiddly*  
tumble down the sink  
*I'll buy you a tumble*

**dripping**

Dr. Crippen

**drunk**

elephant's truck



**ear**

bottle of beer

**ear**

glass of beer

goofy gear

**ear** – reference to ear biting  
or borrowing money

King Lear

**ears**

Britney Spears

**eight**

garden gate

**engineer**

ginger beer

**Epsom Races**

airs and graces

**evens** – equal odds

Major Stevens

**eye**

pudding and pie

steak-and-kidney pie

**eyes**

mince pies

Reduced to minces

baby's cries

mutton pies

pudding and pies



**face**

boat race

Chevy Chase

deuce and ace

Jem Mace

**faces**

airs and graces

**facts**

brass tacks

The whole phrase is used here

<b>fag</b> – cigarette	Harry Wrag oily rag spit and drag
<b>fart</b>	raspberry tart <i>Blowing a raspberry</i>
<b>farts</b> – via beans	beef-hearts
<b>feet</b>	plates of meat
<b>fever</b>	Robinson and Cleaver
<b>fiddle</b> – swindle	hey-diddle-diddle
<b>fiddle</b> – violin	hey-diddle-diddle
<b>fight</b>	read and write
<b>fighter</b>	typewriter
<b>fin</b> – the hand	Lincoln's Inn
<b>fingers</b>	bell ringers
<b>finn</b> – a £5 note	Lincoln's Inn
<b>fire</b>	Aunt Maria Jeremiah Obadiah
<b>fire</b> – domestic hearth	Anna Maria
<b>fish</b>	Andy MacNish Lilian Gish
<b>fist</b>	Oliver Twist Scotch mist
<b>five</b> – Bingo or £5	Jack alive
<b>five</b> – £5	Lady Godiva
<b>fix</b> – a problem	Tom Mix
<b>flea</b>	Bonnie Dundee
<b>fleas</b>	stand at ease

**flies** – house flies

**floor**

**flowers**

**flying squad**

**fool** – idiot

**fork** – finger – fist

**free**

**fuck**

**fuck it**

**fucker**



**gams** – legs

**gaol** – prison

**geezer** – a person

**ghost**

alderman's eyes  
Nellie Blighs

Rory O'More  
April showers  
early hours  
happy hours  
yours and ours

Sweeney Todd

Berk

Duke of York  
*Put up your Dukes*

yet to be

push in the truck  
trolley and truck  
Friar Tuck

*I don't give a Friars*  
cattle truck

*He's cattled* (ruined)  
*She needs a good cattling*

Mrs. Duckett

pheasant plucker  
feather plucker

trams

bucket and pail

ice-cream freezer  
lemon squeezer

pillar and post

**gin**

mother's ruin  
blue ruin  
Brian O'Linn  
bung it in  
Gunga Din  
Lincoln's Inn  
needle and pin  
Vera Lynn

**girl**

chocolate whirl  
mother of pearl  
twist and twirl

**go** – run away

Scapa Flow

**goggle box** – television

nervo and Knox

**good**

Robin Hood

**gravy**

army and navy

**green**

Rose of Thileen

**grin**

Vera Lynn

**ground**

penny a pound

**Guinness**

photo-finish

**guts** – courage

Newington Butts

**gutter**

bread and butter

**h**

**hair**

Barnet Fair

**half**

cow and calf

**half** – ten shillings in old

shower bath

money; now 50 pence

**half a dollar** – half a crown

half an Oxford scholar in old money

**hammer**

Paddy Rammer  
panorama

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

**ink**

**idiot**

Herman Finck

Berk

Short for 'Berkshire Hunt',  
meaning cunt, as in fool

**jail**

**jaw**

**Jew**

bucket and pail

jackdaw

four by two

ten to two

five to two

quarter to two

tomfoolery

**jewellery**

**joke**

oak

**judge**

Barnaby Rudge  
inky smudge

**key**

**kid**

**kids**

green pea

God forbid

saucepan lids

dustbin lids

**kip** – sleep

feather and flip

**kipper**

Jack the Ripper

**kiss**

hit and miss

**knees**

biscuits and cheese  
chips and peas

**knick knacks**

bits and bats

**knife**

drum and fife  
man and wife

**knife and fork**

Drummond and Roce  
Roast reduced to *roce*  
From drum and fife, knife;  
and roast pork, fork



**lark** – fun

Bushey Park  
Noah's Ark

**late**

tiddler's bait

**later**

alligator

**laugh**

cow and calf

**lavatory**

family tree

**leave** – in a hurry

Adam and Eve

**legs**

bacon and eggs  
clothes pegs  
fried eggs  
ham and legs  
Scotch pegs  
wooden pegs

**leper**

salt and pepper

**liar**

holy friar

**lid**

God forbid

**light** – ale

day and night

**light** – for a cigarette

widow's mite

**lips**

apple pips

**liver**

cheerful giver

**lodger**

artful dodger

<b>loo</b> – toilet	one and two
<b>look</b>	butcher's hook <i>Take a butcher's at this</i>
<b>loot</b> – money	whistle and foot toot
<b>louse</b> – informer	rat and mouse
<b>love</b>	heavens above
<b>lunch</b>	kidney punch



<b>magistrate</b>	garden gate
<b>mark</b> – place and time	L.K. Clark of starting
<b>married</b>	cut and carried cash and carried
<b>marry</b>	cash and carry
<b>matches</b>	Colney Hatch(es) cuts and scratches
<b>mate</b>	china plate <i>Me ole china</i> Harry Tate spin and plate
<b>mate</b> – Naval first officer	tin plate
<b>menu</b>	me and you
<b>mike</b> – microphone	Yorkshire tyke
<b>milk</b>	Charlie Dilke <i>Want a glass of charlie?</i> yellow silk
<b>minute</b>	cock linnet

**miss** – girl  
**misses** – wife  
**moke** – donkey  
**money**

**Morman**

**morning**

**mother**

**motor**

**mouth**

**mug** – drinking

**mug** – a fool

cuddle and kiss  
cheese and kisses  
Jerusalem artichoke  
bees and honey  
*I've got no bees left*  
pot of honey  
sugar and honey  
Jerry O'Gorman  
gipsy's warning  
one and t'other  
haddock and bloater  
Yarmouth bloater  
north and south  
hearth rug  
steam tug  
*He's a right steamer*  
milk jug  
tom tug

**n**

**nail**

**nails**

**nark** – police informer

**navy**

**neck**

Daily Mail  
monkeys' tails  
Noah's Ark  
car park  
plain and gravy  
pudding and gravy  
soup and gravy  
half a peck  
hurricane deck

<b>neck</b> – throat	bushel and peck <i>Get this do your bushel</i>
<b>nerves</b>	West Ham Reserves <i>He gets on me West Ham's</i>
<b>nice</b>	apples and rice
<b>nick</b>	cow's lick
<b>no hope</b>	no soap
<b>nose</b>	fireman's hose I suppose
<b>nose</b> – mainly a drunk's	Irish rose red nose
<b>nuns</b>	hot cross buns



<b>old man</b> – father or husband	pot and pan old pot and pan
<b>old woman</b>	gooseberry pudding
<b>on one's own</b>	Jack Jones <i>He's on 'is Jack</i> Pat Malone
<b>on the booze</b>	on the ooze
<b>on the Labour</b> – dole	beggar my neighbour
<b>on the run</b>	hot cross bun
<b>onions</b>	corns and bunions <i>He knows his corns</i>
<b>organ</b>	Molly O'Morgan



<b>paddock</b>	smoked haddock
<b>pain</b>	Kennington Lane
<b>pants</b>	uncle and aunts
<b>paper</b>	linen draper
<b>park</b>	light and dark
<b>party</b>	gay and hearty
<b>pawn</b>	bullock's horn
<b>peck</b> – food	Tooting Bec
<b>peel</b>	Scottish reel
<b>penny</b>	Abergavenny
<b>phone</b>	dog and bone eau de Cologne Reduced to <i>odour</i> Molly Malone
<b>piano</b> – pronounced <i>pianna</i>	Joanna
<b>pickel</b> – predicament	Harvey Nichol
<b>pickles</b>	Harvey Nichols
<b>pictures</b> – cinema	fleas and itchers
<b>piddle</b> – urinate	Jimmy Riddle
<b>piece of chalk</b> – darts	careless talk
<b>pillow</b>	titwillow weeping willow
<b>pillows</b>	rolling billows
<b>pinch</b> – arrest	half-inch
<b>pinch</b> – steal	half-inch
<b>pink</b>	tiddlywink
<b>pint of ale</b>	ship in full sail Reduced to <i>ship</i>

<b>pint of milk</b>	yard of silk
<b>pipe</b>	cherry ripe
<b>piss</b>	hit and miss rattle and hiss
<b>pissed</b>	Brahms and Liszt
<b>pitch</b> – cricket or sports	hedge and ditch
<b>plate</b>	one and eight
<b>playing card</b>	bladder of lard
<b>playing card</b> – Bingo	six months' hard
<b>playing cards</b>	Wilkie Bards
<b>plums</b>	deaf and dumbs <i>I'll have a pound of deafs</i>
<b>pocket</b>	sky pocket Lucy Locket
<b>poke</b> – pocket	Barney Moke okey-doke
<b>Pole</b> – Polish person	sausage roll
<b>policeman</b>	Denis Law
<b>ponce</b>	Alphonse
<b>pony</b> – £25	macaroni Reduced to <i>macker</i>
<b>poof</b> – homosexual	iron hoof
<b>pools</b> – football	April fools
<b>poor</b>	on the floor
<b>Port</b> – the drink	didn't ought
<b>Porter</b> – the beer	Liffey water
<b>pound</b> – money	lost and found merry-go-round

**pox**  
**pram**  
**prick**

band in the box  
beef and ham  
mad Mick  
Pat and Mick  
Uncle Dick  
Hampton Wick  
*He gets on my wick*

**psychiatrist**  
**pub**

trick cyclist  
rub-a-dub



**Quaker**  
**quart** – drinks measure  
**quarter** – quarter-posts

muffin baker  
pineapple and wart  
pimple and wort  
mother and daughter  
for mooring

**quay**  
**queer**  
**quid**

Robert E. Lee  
ginger beer  
King Lear  
tea pot lid



**rain**  
**rent**  
**right**  
**river**

Andy Cain  
France and Spain  
pleasure and pain  
Burton on Trent  
Duke of Kent  
Isle of Wight  
shake and shiver

<b>road</b>	frog and toad
<b>rocks</b>	Salford docks
<b>Rose and Crown</b> – pub name	Lousy Brown
<b>round the back</b> – of a	round the haystack building or a euphemism meaning going to the lavatory
<b>round me's</b>	See <i>round the houses</i>
<b>round the houses</b>	trousers – trousers
<b>row</b>	bull and cow
<b>rum</b>	finger and thumb Tom Thumb



<b>saloon bar</b>	balloon car
<b>saw</b>	bear's paw
<b>say</b>	first of May
<b>say so</b>	coffee and cocoa <i>I should cocoa</i>
<b>Scotch</b> – whisky	pimple and blotch
<b>scouts</b>	Brussels sprouts
<b>scran</b> – food	Tommy O'Rann
<b>sense</b>	eighteen pence
<b>sent for trial</b>	over the stile
<b>Serpentine</b> – the lake in Hyde Park	turpentine
<b>shabby</b>	Westminster Abbey
<b>shaky</b>	currant-cakie

<b>shave</b>	dig in the grave misbehave
<b>shilling</b> – old currency	potato peeling
<b>ship</b>	'apenny dip ha'penny dip
<b>ship</b> – while serving on a ship	whip
<b>shirt</b>	Uncle Bert dicky dirt
<b>shit</b>	tom tit
<b>shits</b> – diarrhoea	threepenny bits Jim Britts
<b>shop</b> – to inform against	lollipop
<b>shoulder</b>	rocks and boulder
<b>shovel</b>	Lord Lovell
<b>shy</b>	Peckham Rye
<b>sick</b>	half-a-lick Tom and Dick Uncle Dick <i>Feeling dicky today</i>
<b>silly</b>	Uncle Willy daffadown dilly
<b>sing-song</b>	ding-dong
<b>sister</b>	skin and blister
<b>six</b>	Joynson Hicks
<b>six</b> – Bingo	chop sticks
<b>six</b> – darts score	Tom Mix
<b>sixty six</b> – Bingo	clickety-click
<b>skint</b>	boracic lint pink lint

<b>sky</b>	apple pie
<b>sleep</b>	bo-peep
<b>slop</b> – police constable,	ginger pop via ecilop
<b>smile</b>	penny a mile
<b>smoke</b>	laugh and joke
<b>sneeze</b>	bread and cheese
<b>snout</b>	in and out
<b>soap</b>	band of hope Charlie Pope Cape of Good Hope
<b>socks</b>	army rocks almond rocks <i>Me almonds are wet</i> Nervo and Knox peppermint rocks Tilbury Docks
<b>soda</b> – soda-water	Major Loder
<b>son</b>	currant bun bath bun penny bun ding dong
<b>song</b>	loop the loop <i>Want some more loopers?</i>
<b>soup</b>	Jimmy O’Goblin
<b>sovereign</b>	bow and arrow
<b>sparrow</b>	bubble and squeak
<b>speak</b>	Woolwich and Greenwich
<b>spinach</b>	Madam De Luce <i>Don’t give that old madam</i>
<b>spruce</b> – deceive	

<b>spuds</b> – potatoes	rosebuds
<b>spunk</b>	Maria Monk
<b>stairs</b>	apples and pears
<b>start</b> – of a race	puff and dart
<b>starting price</b>	nits and lice
<b>state</b> – of mind	Harry Tate
	two and eight
<b>steak</b>	Joe Blake
<b>steak and kidney pudding</b>	Kate and Sidney
<b>still</b> – photograph	Beecham's pill
<b>stink</b>	pen and ink
<b>stinker</b>	pen and inker
<b>stir</b> – a prison	Joe Gurr
<b>stocking</b>	Silas Hocking
<b>stools</b> – pub	April fools
<b>stout</b> – beer	salmon and trout
<b>stout</b> – the drink	in and out
<b>strangers</b> – warning for the police coming	Queen's Park Rangers
<b>street</b>	field of wheat
<b>sub</b> – an advance on wages	rhubarb
	rub-a-dub
<b>suit</b>	whistle and flute
	<i>Love the new whistle</i>
	piccolo and flute
<b>suitcase</b>	crowded space
<b>sun</b>	currant bun
	bath bun
	penny bun

**supper**

Tommy Tucker

**swear**

Lord Mayor  
rip and tear

**sweetheart**

jam tart  
Reduced to *tart*



**table**

Cain and Abel

**tail** – dog's

hammer and nail  
alderman's nail

**tailor**

Sindbad the sailor

**tale** – a con man's trick

weep and wail  
Daily Mail

**talk**

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

**talk** – referring to a complaint

roast pork  
*Are you roasting again?*

**tanner** – old sixpenny piece

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

**tart**

horse and cart

**tea**

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

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

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

**turd**  
**twenty two** – Bingo  
**twig**

my word  
dinky-doo  
earwig



**umbrella**  
**understand, twig**

Auntie Ella  
earwig



**voice**

Hobson's choice  
Rolls Royce  
Walter Joyce



**wages**

greengages  
*Have you had your greens yet?*  
rock of ages

**waistcoat**

Billy Prescott  
Colonel Prescott  
Charlie Prescott

**walk**

Duke of York

**walk** – a term of dismissal

ball of chalk  
*Take a ball of chalk*  
penn'orth of chalk

**wall**

Albert Hall

**want**

Levy and Frank

**wash**

Bob Squash

**washer**

lemon squasher

<b>watch</b>	Gordon and Gotch
<b>water</b>	fisherman's daughter miller's daughter
<b>way</b>	Edna May
<b>wheels</b>	John Mills
<b>whisky</b>	Charlie Frisky gay and frisky highland frisky I'm so frisky Reduced to <i>I'm so</i>
<b>whizz</b>	bottle of fizz
<b>whore</b>	early door
<b>wife</b>	trouble and strife worry and strife drum and fife joy of my life carving knife Duchess of Fife <i>She's me old Dutch</i>
<b>wig</b>	Irish jig
<b>win</b>	nose and chin
<b>window</b>	burnt cinder Jenny Linder Polly Flinder
<b>windy</b> – the weather	Rawalpindi
<b>wood</b> – timber	do me good
<b>woods</b> – Woodbines, cigarettes	do me goods

**word**

mocking bird

**word** – of honour

dicky bird

**work**

Russian Turk  
slave and Turk