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Emojis and slang are the go-to tools for how young people communicate - they're fast, expressive, and can convey meaning in ways words alone can't. But just like slang, emojis can sometimes have hidden or double meanings. Understanding these forms of communication is vital for safeguarding and building trust with children and young people.

To help, here's a simple guide to common slang and emojis used by young people today. While this guide isn't exhaustive or definitive, it's a great starting point. We encourage practitioners to stay curious about how young people communicate and use this guide to spark conversations, strengthen connections, and identify potential risks.

Emoji	Meaning	Context
	Penis or erection	Sexting
	'Hot'	Sexting
	Used to express drunkenness or sexual arousal	
	Blowjob	Sexting
	Pure	Drug selling/buying online/class A Drugs
	Bottom/Bum	Sexting
	Dump truck (large or shapely bottom)	Sexting
	Parents are watching	Parent or Carer Involvement
	Sex	Sexting

	Anal Sex	Sexting
	Nudes (often called 'Noods')	Sexting
	Desiring someone sexually (often in response to nudes)	Sexting
	Ghosted/dumped without explanation	
	Masturbation	Sexting
	Marijuana/Cannabis	Drug Selling/buying online
	Shy/Nervous (Context of flirting)	Sexting
	Selfie	
	Private dance/performance	Sexting
	Call me	
	Spanking	Sexting
	Orgasm	Sexting
	Ejaculate	Sexting
	Sexual activity, especially oral Sex	Sexting

<p>P </p>	<p>Porn Star</p>	<p>Sexting</p>
	<p>Vagina</p>	<p>Sexting</p>
	<p>Cocaine</p>	<p>Drug selling/buying online</p>
	<p>Breasts</p>	<p>Sexting</p>
	<p>Sexual Intercourse</p>	<p>Sexting</p>
	<p>Sexual intercourse</p>	<p>Sexting</p>
	<p>Sniffing/using drugs</p>	<p>Drug selling/buying online</p>
	<p>Use of drugs</p>	<p>Drug selling/buying online</p>
	<p>Drugs</p>	<p>Drug selling/buying online</p>
	<p>Sexual intercourse</p>	<p>Sexting</p>
	<p>Spiciness/inappropriate or risque content</p>	<p>Sexting</p>
	<p>Horny/turned on/aroused</p>	<p>Sexting</p>
	<p>Erection</p>	<p>Sexting</p>

	'Go for it'/consent	Sexting
	'Go for it'/consent	Sexting
	(8 Ball) an 8th of cannabis	Drug selling/buying online
S  S	Sex	Sexting
CU4S	See you for sex	
	Methamphetamine	Drug selling/buying online
	Potency of drugs	Drug selling/buying online
	Drug dealer	Drug selling/buying online
	Heroin	Drug selling/buying online
	Quality of drug	Drug selling/buying online

Sexual & other Slang Terms used by Children and Young People

Slang or street words are becoming more popular with young people, keep up to date with terms and meanings used to help safeguard the young people you care for or work with.

Accountant - Code word for being a sex worker or OnlyFans creator. This originates from the fact that people don't ask follow-up questions when you say you have a steady, boring job like an accountant.

Active – dependable associate, involved in gang activity
Ahk, Akhi – brother, friend (from Arabic)
Amm – cannabis (abbreviation of Amnesia, a potent strain)
Askari – police (from Arabic and other African languages)
Back out - draw (a weapon)
Back out – draw (a weapon)
Bagged - caught by the police
Bagged – caught by the police
Bagging – stabbing in the lower body
Bagging stabbing in the lower body
Bally, Bali – balaclava
Bally, Bali – balaclava
Bando – abandoned property
Bando – abandoned property
Bands – coloured elastic bands tying batches of cash
Banger – hit, successful song
Bap – the sound of a shot or gunfire – to fire (a gun)
Bap – the sound of a shot or gunfire, to fire a gun
Bars – lyrics
Beef – dispute, feud
Beef – dispute, feud
Bells – bullets
Bells – bullets
Bih — Short form of b*tch
Binned – shot
Binned – shot
Birded off, birded up – imprisoned
Birded off, birded up – imprisoned
Bitz – one’s neighbourhood
Blam – shoot

Blow – leave, escape
Blunt – cannabis ‘spliff’
Body Count - the number of people someone has slept with
Bones – dead
Booj, buj – heroin
Bookie, buki – suspicious
Bora, borer – knife
Botty – firearm
Box – prison
Boxed, boxed in, boxed up – imprisoned
Bozz – leader
Breeze off – leave town, disappear
Bruck, bruk – broken (down), broke
Bruckshot – sawn-off shotgun
Bruckshot – sawn-off shotgun
Buj – obnoxious person
Bun – light up (a cannabis cigarette) shoot, eliminate
Burner – gun
Burst – shoot
Cabby – cigarette containing cannabis and cocaine or cannabis and crack mix
Cabby – cigarette containing cannabis and cocaine or cannabis and crack mix
Cake - Used to describe a large bottom
Cake – crack or cocaine
Cally – cannabis
Can – prison
Car, cah – because
Cat – drug user and/or drug purchaser
CBO – criminal behaviour order
Cheffed (up) – stabbed, killed
Chete – machete
Ching – knife, to stab

Chinging – chilling and hanging out - stabbing
Civilian – non-gang-member, non-combatant
Clap – attack, shoot, steal drugs
Clapping cheeks — Having sex
Codes – ‘postcode areas’, zones where gangs dominate
Corn – ammunition
Crash – raid, invade, shoot
Crashing corn – shooting your gun
Crib – home
Cro – cannabis
Cunch – out-of-town locations where drugs can be sold
Cutter – knife
Cuttin – leaving, running away, mixing or adulterating illicit drugs
Darg, dargie, dawg – male friend, ‘homie’, male active on the street, gang member
Dark – heroin
Dash – throw, run away
Dasheen – running away, fleeing
Diligent – admirable, brave, cool, dependable associate
Ding dong – dispute, brawl
Dipped – stabbed
Dipper – knife
Don – respected person
Dottie, Dotty, Dotz – shotgun
Doughnut – idiot
Drawn out – involved in gang culture, under pressure from street crime, lured, rendered vulnerable
Drenched – stabbed
Driller – shooter, gang member
Drilling – attacking, aggressing, invading
Dumpy – shotgun
Dun – kill(ed), punish(ed)

Duppy – kill, dead
Elizabeth – money
Endz – one’s neighbourhood
FBOI — F**k boy; a guy just looking for sex
Febreze – spray a place to remove the smell of cannabis, get rid of evidence of illicit activities
Feds – police
Field – danger-zone, combat area
Fishing – looking for victims
Flake – cocaine
Flashed – stopped, pulled over e.g by police
Flicky – switchblade knife
Food – drugs
Fry – shoot (at)
FWB — Friends with benefits
G-check – aggressively check someone’s gang credentials
Gassed – excited
Gem – weak person
Get the drop – acquire the necessary information
Giraffe – £1000
Glide – drive into enemy territory
GM – (fellow) gang member
Go cunch/country – leave the city to sell drugs in rural/seaside locations
Got – attacked, robbed
Grubby – authentic, tough (neighbourhood)
Guv – prison officer
Gwop – money
Habsi, hapsi – black person
Hand ting – pistol
Hentai — Graphic anime pornography
Hitter – gunman
Hottie – SIM card

Iron – gun
Jakes – police
Joint – gun
Juiced – confident, energised, bloodstained
Jump out – undercover police on patrol, emerge from a vehicle
Ketchup – blood
Khala – black person
Khalas! – ‘that’s enough’, stop!
Kick down doors, kick in doors, kick door – raid a domestic location
KMS — Kill myself
Kwef – violence
Kweff, Queff – kill with gun or knife, harm, attack
Kweng – cut, stabbed
KYS — Kill yourself
Laces – ammunition
Lacking – caught unawares, without backup
Landing – prison, cell
Lane – main street, urban area
Layers – protective clothing
Leggin (it) – escaping, running away
Leng – gun
Let rip – fire a bullet or discharge a firearm
Light – cocaine, crack
Line – a drug-dealing operation or network
Link – contact, source for drugs, make contact with meet, collect
Lit/Turnt/Turnt Up — Something that’s active or popular, can also refer to being stoned or drunk
Lizzies – money
LMP — 1. A term that means “like my pic” or 2. Sometimes stands for “lick my p***y”
Loud – cannabis
Looksmxing - the process of maximizing one’s own physical attractiveness
Lurk – stalk a victim, prowl around

M – murder
Mac(k) – automatic firearm, Mac -9 or Mac-10 small machine gun
Machine – gun
Mains – close companions, streets, zones
Mash – gun
Matic – gun
Matrixed – placed on the London Met police gang database
Mazza, Mazzaleen – madness, crazy situation
Ments – mental, crazy
Milly – a 9mm pistol
Mog - being more physically attractive than others, and is part of the trend of looksmaxing
Moist – disgusting, pathetic, cowardly, weak, afraid
Monkey – £500
Mop – large gun
Move – criminal operation, raid or attack
Nank – knife, stab
Nap nap – kidnap
Need – cannabis
Niff – cocaine
No face – masked, with identity concealed
OJ – ‘on job’, productive and successful in street activities
Old Bill – the police
On papers – on parole or probation
On road – outdoors, active in the streets/neighbourhood(s), eg engaged in selling drugs
On tag – fitted with an electronic surveillance device
On volts – intent on or engaged in violence
Ooters – shooters
Opp-block – enemy territory
Opps – enemies
OT – ‘out trapping’, ‘out there’ or ‘out of town’, away on business, dealing in urban or country locations

Ox – razor, blade
Pagan, paigon – untrustworthy person, enemy
Paper, papes – money, cash
Passa – dispute, dramatic event
Patch – territory
Pattern – arrange, sort out, set up
Patty – slow-witted, ‘clueless’ or deluded person, white female
Pave – streets
Pay – profitable activity, reward
Pebs, pebbles – pellets or deals of heroin, crack or steroids
Ped – moped
Pen – prison
Pepper – spray with shotgun pellets or bullets, shoot
Plot – plan, set up, hang around, conceal
Plug – a contact for drugs
Plug — Term used to refer to someone who can “connect” you with drugs; a drug dealer.
Plugging – hiding drugs in rectum
Poke – stab
Pole – shotgun, gun
Popo – police
Posted up – hanging around, positioned to sell drugs
Pree – to check out, assess (a person)
Proper – excellent, admirable
Ps – money
Push, pusha – bicycle
Put in/on a spliff – killed
Rack – quantity of money, £1000
Rambo – large knife or machete
Rams, Ramsay – knife
Rep – promote or publicly declare for (one’s area, gang)

Ride out for (someone) – to defend, even if guilty
Riding dirty – going out armed and/or in possession of drugs
Rise – aim (a weapon)
Riz – cigarette papers
Rizz - short for charisma
Road – street-smart, active in street culture
Rotty – firearm
Rusty – antique or old firearm
Sam, sams – samurai sword or large knife
Score – kill or injure an enemy
Scoreboard, scorecard – list of enemies killed, injured or defeated
Scram – gun
Scrum – attractive female, sex
Sh, shh – ‘don’t mention this’, censored item
Shading — Where teens gossip about another party without naming them; also “throw shade” means to talk about someone
Shank – knife
Shaved – insulted, humiliated, punished stabbed
Sheets – cigarette papers
Shoes – guns
Shot – buyer of drugs
Shotting – dealing drugs
Shouts – greetings, acclaim
Skate, skeet – run away
Skeet — To ejaculate
Skeng – knife, gun, weapon
Skududu – rapid gunfire
Slammer – prison
Slatt – cry of affection, respect
Slew – ruin, defeat

Sliding – driving into enemy territory
Slime – friend, associate
Smash — Means to have casual sex
Smash — Means to have casual sex
Smoke – kill, disappear, conflict, violence, hostility
Sneaky link — Term for someone you’re hooking up with on the sly
Snitch – informer
Soak – stab
Special K – ketamine
Spinner, spin-ting – revolver
Spinners – petite females
Spitting – rapping
Splash, splash up, splash down – stab
Squirt – spray acid (over someone)
Stacks – large quantities of money
Stain – rob
Stepping on toes – trespassing on or attacking enemy territory
STFU — Short for “shut the f**k up,” can be used as an expression of disbelief or to cyberbully
Stick – gun
Sticky – dangerous
Stones – bullets, pellets of crack
Strally – gun
Strap – gun
Strip – area where drugs are traded
Swimming – stabbed
Swing – wield (a knife), stab
Sword – knife
Tan – turn red, stain with blood
Tapped – tired, off-guard
Tec, tek, tekky – handgun, Tec-9 semi-automatic pistol
Ten toes – run away, escape, invade, on foot

TF — The f**k, as in “who TF you think are?”
Thicc — Having an attractive, curvy body
Thirsty — Desperate for attention, usually sexual attention
Thirsty — Desperate for sexual attention; horny
Thot — Stands for “that ho over there” and is often used instead of “slut”
Throwing up signs – making gang-related gestures with fingers
Ting – girl
Trap – neighbourhood, ‘ghetto’, area where drugs are sold, temporary location for dealing drugs
Trapping – hanging out, selling drugs or waiting for buyers to contact
Trey, tre – pistol
Tum-tum – gun
Tweed – cannabis
Wap – gun
WAP — Wet ass p*ssy
Warhead – cigarette containing a drug
Wass – stupid person
Weston – handgun
Wetter(s) – knife
Wetting – stabbing, killing
Whip – break down (a drug) into smaller parts
Wok, wok house – prison
Woosh – shoot
Worksy – busy, diligent
Y.I.C – ‘youngest in charge’, young gang member taking or given responsibility
Yammed – robbed
Yard – home
Yat – girl
Yay – crack
Yé – personal style, skill
Yute – young person or young people on the street
Zaddy — A well-dressed, attractive man of any age

Zombie – zombie knife
Zoot – cannabis cigarette
24s – all day
4-door – saloon car