

Language /Culture Class: American Slang

Vocabulary:

Level I: Cool (as in, "that's cool!"), nice, wassup (= "what's up?"), hang out, super (= "very, very"), kid (child)

Level II: Gonna (= "going to"), wanna (= "want to"), awesome, rad, evil

Level III: Chill (= "hang out"), bad (= super awesome), "Let's keep it on the DL" (= "I don't want to talk about it"),

Materials

- TV
- VCR
- Videotape of American movie
- Videotape of MTV
- CD Player
- Stereo
- CDs of American Hip-Hop music
- Notebook Paper
- Pens
- Chalkboard
- Chalk
- Notecards
- Basket/bowl

Preparation

1. Write examples of sentences in formal English (that can be translated into American slang) on notecards.

Ex: You are very good at playing piano = You're awesome at playing piano

2. Mix the notecards in a bowl/basket.

Methods of Instruction

1. Read aloud a paragraph that uses formal English, and then another that translates that paragraph into American slang. Ask students which paragraph they understood better (probably the formal one).

2. Explain to students that when young people in America get together and hang out, they don't necessarily speak with very formal language, but use slang a lot to communicate as well.

3. On the chalkboard, make a list of all the slang words and phrases used in the paragraph. Then make another list of definitions that correspond to the list of slang words.

4. Break the students up into small groups of 3-4 people each. Allow each group to choose a handful of sentences from the basket to translate into American slang.

5. Go around the room and make sure students understand what to do.

6. Ask each group to present their translated sentences in front of the class.

7. Show examples of Americans using slang in their everyday lives (using video clips from MTV).

8. Let students hear examples of slang in American pop music.

Language /Culture Class: American Slang pg. 2

Critical Thinking Questions /Classroom Discussion / Journal Writing Topics:

1. How might using slang be a hindrance to everyday conversation? How might it enhance everyday conversation?

2. Give some examples of slang in Chinese and explain how you would incorporate them into everyday language.

3. Write a poem, song, or short story that uses some of the slang words/phrases that you learned today, and perform this composition for your classmates.