

Hugh Young's Lexicon of Polari

Here is the Polari (etc.) wordlist. It is copyright © Hugh Young 1996 provisionally, though much of it is lifted from other copyright works, and I'll have to sort that out later if I get to publish it. It may be copied and used for educational purposes in the meantime (at least as far as I am concerned). The numbers begin anew for each letter (so an entry can be cited as A1, A2, etc.).

As you see, some of it ([pronunciations](#), parts of speech - do they still call them that?) is incomplete, and some words lack derivations (*choad?* *maung(ed)?*). For the filling of any gaps, or any suggested additions, I will be very grateful. I have given words and phrases the benefit of the doubt, including some that may be, for example, no-one but Kenneth Williams' idiolect.

I would also be grateful for suggestions of, or offers from, generous foundations who would be prepared to finance a trip to England to study Polari first-hand.

A

	Word	Meaning	Source	Alternate Spellings	Pronunciation	Part of Speech	Original Language	Original Form	Example	Comment
1	acqua	water	h	acqua	-	n	It	acqua	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Lingua Franca (LF)	akwa	-	-
-	-	-	h	aqua	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	ajax	nearby	-	-	-	a	-	-	-	-
3	alamo!	I'm hot for you/him!	d	-	-	excl	-	acr. LMO = Lick Me Out	-	-
4	arthur	masturbate	k	-	-	vi	rhyming slang	J Arthur Rank = wank	-	-
5	aspro	male prostitute	h	aspro	-	n	LF aspro 'money' (or E 'arse' + 'pro[stitute]' ?)	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	aspra	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Aunt Nell	ears	a	-	-	n pl	-	-	-	-
-	Aunt Nell!	Listen to me!	a	-	-	excl	-	-	-	-

B

Word	Meaning	Source	Alternate Spellings	Pronunciation	Part of Speech	Original Language	Original Form	Example	Comment
------	---------	--------	---------------------	-------------------------------	----------------	-------------------	---------------	---------	---------

1	bagadga	penis	h	bagadga	-	n	It	bagaggio "baggage"	-	-
-	-	-	h	bagaga	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	barclays	masturbate	k	-	-	vi	rhyming slang	Barclays Bank = wank	-	-
3	barkey	sailor	h	-	-	-	It	barca "boat"	-	-
4	barnet	hair (perh. esp. highly coiffured and styled)	ATH	-	-	n	rhyming slang	Barnet fair = hair	"You can have any colour to match your barnet." - Julian and Sandy	Barnet fair, a large horse fair in Hertfordshire (Barnet is now part of Greater London)
5	-	head, brain	pb	-	-	n	-	-	Use your barnet	-
6	bat	foot	a	-	-	n usu pl	-	-	-	-
7	-	shoe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	shuffle or dance on stage	h	-	-	v	-	-	-	-
-	-	shoe	b	batt	-	n usu pl	-	-	-	-
8	battery	knock	h	-	-	-	It	battere	-	-
-	-	strike	h	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	battery carsey	knock at a door	h	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	benar	better	h	benar	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	bene	good	h	bene	bi:n	-	It	bene "well"	-	-
-	-	-	-	ben	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	beyonek	shilling	h	beyonek	'bjAnek	-	It	bianca "white"	-	-
-	-	-	h	beone	bj@un	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	-	bjoG	-	-	-	-	-
13	bevvy	drink	h	bevvy	-	n	It	bev- "to drink"	-	-
-	-	-	-	bevie	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	bivvy	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	pub, tavern	s	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

14	bevy omee	drunkard	h	-	-	n	-	-	-	-
15	bijou	small	b	-	-	a	Fr	-	-	-
16	bimbo	dupe, sucker	h	-	-	n	It	bimbo "kid, infant, child"	-	-
17	binco	kerosine flare	h	-	-	-	It	bianca "white"	-	-
18	blag	pick up (man)	b	-	-	v i	-	-	-	-
19	bod	body	dl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	bold	outrageous, flamboyant (and bold)	ATH	bold	-	a	E	-	Oooh, 'e's bold! 'e's got the Polari off!" - ATH	-
21	bodega	shop	h	-	-	n	It	botteca	-	-
22	bona	good	-	bona	'b@un@	a	It	buono	-	-
-	-	-	w	bonar	-	a	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	boner	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	bono	'b@un@u	a	-	-	-	-
23	boner nochy	good night	h	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	bonar for	attracted to	w	bonar for	-	a	-	-	both bonar for Cecil	-
25	bonaroo	wonderful, excellent	r	bonaroo	-	a	-	-	-	-

C

	Word	Meaning	Source	Alternate Spellings	Pronunciation	Part of Speech	Original Language	Original Form	Example	Con
1	camisa	shirt	h	camisa	-	-	It	camisa	-	
2	camp	act in a stereotypically feminine way	k 1/2/50	camp	-	v	-	-	-	
-	-	stereotypically feminine, excessively showy	-	-	-	a	-	-	-	
3	capela	hat, cap	b	capela	-	n	It	capella	-	

-	-	-	r	capello	-	-	-	-	-	but see
-	-	-	h	kapella	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	n	shap	-	-	-	-	-	thieve
-	-	-	h	suppelar	-	-	It	suppellettile "household fittings" ...?	-	
4	carnish	meat, food	h	carnish	ka:niS	n	It	carne "meat"	-	
5	carnish ken	eating house	h	carnish ken	-	-	-	-	-	
6	cartes	genitals	b	-	-	-	-	-	-	
7	cartzo	penis	h	-	'ka:ts@u	-	It	cazzo "thrust"	-	
8	carsey	house	l	carsey	-	-	It	casa	-	
-	-	lavatory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	brothel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	h	carser	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	h	carzer	-	-	-	-	-	
9	catever	bad	h	catever	-	-	It	cattivo	-	
-	-	-	-	kerterver	-	-	-	-	-	
10	charper	seek	h	charper	-	-	It	cercare	-	cf. s
11	charpering carsey	police station	h	charpering carsey	tSa:p@rin 'ka:zi:	-	-	-	-	
12	charver	have sexual intercourse	-	charver	tSa:v@'	-	cf. Sp	chava "girl" chabacanada 'a very vulgar expression'	-	
-	-	-	ph	-	-	-	Sp	cavolta "horsemanship"	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Romany	charva/charver "touch"	-	
-	-	-	-	chauver	'tSo:v@	-	-	-	-	
13	charvering donna	(female) prostitute	h	charvering donna	-	-	-	-	-	
14	chavie	child	l	-	-	-	Sp	chava "girl"	-	
-	-	-	bl	-	-	-	-	-	-	
15	chaud	penis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
16	chicken	young boy	dl	-	-	-	-	-	-	
17	chinker	five	l	chinker	-	-	It	cinque	-	
-	-	-	h	chikwa	-	-	-	-	-	
18	cod	vile	dl	-	-	-	-	-	-	
19	colin	erection	k	-	-	n	rhyming slang?	-	-	

20	comission	shirt	h	-	-	-	-	-	-	see c
21	cottage	public loo	dl	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	frequent c's in search of sex	-	-	-	vi	-	-	-	
22	crimper	hairdresser	dl	-	-	-	-	-	-	
23	cull	mate	n	-	-	-	-	-	-	as "molly" 18
-	-	testicle	n	-	-	-	-	-	-	18

D

	Word	Meaning	Source	Alternate Spellings	Pronunciation	Part of Speech	Original Language	Original Form	Example	Comment
1	deek	observe?	r	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	deaner	shilling	h	-	-	-	-	-	-	see "dinarly"
3	dewey	two	l	dewey	-	-	It	due	-	-
-	-	-	-	doee	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	duey	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	dinarly	money	l	dinarli	-	n	Sp	dinero	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	It	dinaro	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Persian	dinar	-	-
-	-	-	h	dinarla	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	dinarly	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	dish	attractive male	dl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	dizzy	scatterbrained	dl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	dolly	pleasant	g	-	-	a	It dolce, "sweet"	-	-	-
-	-	smart and attractive young woman	h	dolly	-	n	It dolce, "sweet"	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	doll	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	dona	lady, landlady, woman	h	dona	-	-	It	donna	-	-
-	-	-	-	donna	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	doner	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	doob	pill (amphetamine)	b	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	dosh	money	w	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	dowry	a lot, much	h	dowry	-	-	It	dare, "give"	-	-

12	drag	clothes	b	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	drear	dreary	k	-	-	a	-	-	all very tiring and d. - 12/4/50	-
-	-	dreary person	k	-	-	n	E	-	a group of British drears	-
-	-	behave drearily	k	-	-	vi	-	-	d.s along in perfect Cinderella fashion - 6/7/49	-
14	dredge	?	m	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

E

	Word	Meaning	Source	Alternate Spellings	<u>Pronunciation</u>	Part of Speech	Original Language	Original Form	Example	Comment
1	ecaf	face	b	-	-	n	E (backwards sp)	-	-	-
-	eek	face	ATH	-	-	n	E (contraction of the above) or	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	It eche ("complexion"?)	-	-	-
2	+ette (suffix)	diminutive	ATH	-	-	-	-	-	treazhette ("little treasure"), tour-ette, telegramme -ette - ATH	Much more frequent than standard English
3	esong	nose	dl	-	-	n	E (based on backward sp)	-	-	-

F

	Word	Meaning	Source	Alternate Spellings	<u>Pronunciation</u>	Part of Speech	Original Language	Original Form	Example	Comm
1	fab	fabulous, excellent, marvellous	-	fab	-	-	-	-	-	-

2	fabe	-	k 12/5/68	fabe	-	a	Sp	fabuloso = Eng. 'fabulous'	-	-
-	-	-	-	fabel	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	fake	make, do	h	fake	-	n	It	faccio "I make"	-	-
-	-	artificial, false	-	fake	-	a	-	-	-	-
4	fakement	thing, doing, action	h	fakement	-	n	It	faccio" + Eng '-ment'	-	-
5	fanny	?	ATH	-	-	-	-	-	That singing polone, Brice:" "Fanny?" "Maybe to you but we were enthralled!" - ATH	-
6	fantabulosa	excellent	ATH	-	-	-	E fanta(stic) + Sp (f.)abuloso	-	-	-
7	fatcha	face	h	fatcha	-	-	It	faccia	-	-
8	feely	young	b	feely	-	a	It. figlie, children	-	-	-
-	-	child	h	feele	-	n	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	feelia	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	feelier	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	l	fellier	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	ferricadooza	knock-down- blow	h	ferricadooza	-	-	It	ferire	-	-
-	-	-	h	ferrica douzer	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	filiome	under-age youth	h	filiome	,fi:li'@umi:	-	It	figlie" + "uomo"	-	-
11	flowery	lodgings, accomodation, house entertainment	-	-	-	-	E. prison rhyming slang?	flowery dell" = cell ?	-	-
12	fogle	handkerchief	h	fogle	-	n	It	foglia "leaf"	-	-
13	foon	?	ATH	-	-	-	-	-	Divine! Foon, very	-

foon!" -
ATH

G

	Word	Meaning	Source	Alternate Spellings	<u>Pronunciation</u>	Part of Speech	Original Language	Original Form	Example	Comment
1	gam	leg	h	gam	-	-	LF	gamba	-	-
2	gajo	stranger, non-Gypsy	ph	gajo	-	n	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	gaujo	-	n	-	-	-	-
3	gelt	money	dl	gelt	-	n	Ger. via Yiddish?	gelt "gold"	-	-
4	gent	money	h	gent	dSent	-	It	argento "silver"	-	-
5	glossy	magazine	dl	glosssy	-	n (usu. pl?)	-	-	-	-
6	gunta	abusive: in your g.	d	gunta	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	gylrig	(desirable?) male	k	gylrig	-	n	E backslang? Girlyg[irl]?	-	park where there was a fabulous g. but not available - 18/6/57	-
-	-	flirtation?	k	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	sexual	k	-	-	a	-	-	-	-

H

	Word	Meaning	Source	Alternate Spellings	<u>Pronunciation</u>	Part of Speech	Original Language	Original Form	Example	Comment
1	hambag	money	w	hambag	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	presents	r	handbag	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	hermo sumi obrepens	homosexuality?	k 2/4/47	hermo sumi obrepens	-	n	h.s. scan-rhyme for "homo-sexu" + quasi L. repere "to creep" cf. obreption "surprising by stealth, obtaining	-	-	-

							(gift) by false pretences"			
-	-	-	k 27/2/47	sermo humi obrepens	-	n	-	-	-	-

IJ

	Word	Meaning	Source	Alternate Spellings	<u>Pronunciation</u>	Part of Speech	Original Language	Original Form	Example	Comment
1	jarry	eat	h	-	-	vt	It	mangiare	-	-
-	-	food	h	-	-	n	-	-	-	-
-	-	fellate, have oral sex with	b	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	jew's eye	anything of value	h	-	-	-	It	-	-	-
3	jogger	entertain	h	jogger	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	jogar	-	-	Port.	jogar "play"	-	-
4	joggering omee	entertainer (male), street musician	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	jube	breast	j	cf. doob	-	n usu pl	-	-	-	-

K

	Word	Meaning	Source	Alternate Spellings	<u>Pronunciation</u>	Part of Speech	Original Language	Original Form	Example	Comment
1	kaffies	trousers	dl	kaffies	-	n pl	-	-	-	-
2	kamp	gay man or lesbian	-	kamp	-	n	-	-	-	NZ 1960s, 70s. See also 'camp'
3	kapella	hat, cap	h	kapella	-	-	It	capella	-	-
4	kapello	cloak	h	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	ken	house	h	-	-	-	-	-	carnish ken	usu. in combination: see also 'carsey'
6	kerterver cartzo	venereal disease	h	-	-	n	-	-	-	See also 'catever'

L

	Word	Meaning	Source	Alternate Spellings	Pronunciation	Part of Speech	Original Language	Original Form	Example	Comment
1	lally	leg	-	lally	-	n usu pl	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	j	lallipeg	-	n	-	E rhyming sl.?	-	-
-	-	-	r	lyle	-	n usu pl	Anglo- Chinese	lai-lo, "come here"	-	-
2	lapper	hand	j	lapper	-	n usu pl	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	pc	lupper	-	n usu pl	-	-	Rona lau your lappers up the strillers, bona! - ATH	-
3	latty, latties	house, home, lodgings, accommodation	b, m	latty, latties	-	n	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	letties	-	n	It	lette	-	-
4	letty	bed	h	letty	-	n	It	lette	-	-
-	-	-	ph	-	-	-	It	letti "beds"	-	-
5	lil	hand	dl	-	-	n (usu pl?)	-	-	-	-
6	lingo	language (esp. foreign)	h	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	lucoddy	body	g	-	-	n	E rhyming sl.?	-	-	-
8	lupper	finger	dl	lupper	-	n (usu pl?)	-	-	-	-

M

	Word	Meaning	Source	Alternate Spellings	Pronunciation	Part of Speech	Original Language	Original Form	Example	Com
1	madzer	half	h	madzer	-	-	It	mezzo	-	-
-	-	-	h	medzer	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	madzer caroon	half a crown (two shillings)	h	madzer caroon	-	-	It	mezzo corona	-	-

		and sixpence)								
2	manjalie	eat, food	h	manjalie	-	-	It	mangiare	-	
-	manjarie	eat, food	h	manjarie	-	-	It	mangiare	-	
3	manky	bad, poor, tasteless	h	manky	-	-	It	mancare, "lack, want for"	-	
4	martini	hand	a	-	-	n	-	-	-	
5	matini	ring	aw (andrea woelke)	-	-	-	-	-	Vade the poloni with the matini. means look at the man* with the ring, i.e. look he's gay. * contraction of omi-poloni?	
6	maunged	bad looking	g	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	destroy, damage?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
7	mazarine	mezzanine, platform below stage	h	mazarine	-	-	It	mezzanino	-	
8	measures	money	b	measures	-	n	-	-	-	S me
-	-	-	l	metze	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	h	medzers	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	dl	metzas	-	-	-	-	-	
9	medzer	halfpenny	r	-	-	n	It	mezzo , "half"	-	
10	meshigner	crazy	dl	meshigner	-	-	Heb. via Yiddish	meshuga, crazy; meshuggener, crazy man	-	
11	mish	shirt	n	-	-	-	It	camisa	-	S can
12	molly	gay man	n	molly	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	n	molly(ing)-cull	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	n	mollying-bitch	-	-	-	-	-	

13	muck	stage makeup	h	muck	-	-	It	macchia "stain" / Eng. muck	-	
14	multy	many, a lot	h	multy	-	-	It	molto	-	

N

	Word	Meaning	Source	Alternate Spellings	Pronunciation	Part of Speech	Original Language	Original Form	Example	Comment
1	nada	nothing	ma	-	-	-	Sp.	-	Nada to varda in the larder - not well endowed	-
2	naff	bad	b	naff	-	-	E. acro:	Normal As Fuck,	-	Acronyms probably back-forme
-	-	drab	dl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Not Available for Fucking	-	-
-	-	-	gb	-	-	-	-	Naffuckingood	-	-
-	-	-	ATH	naph	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	namyarie	eat, food	h	namyarie	-	-	It	mangiare	-	See jarry
-	nanyarie	eat, food	h	nanyarie	-	-	-	-	-	See jarry
4	nanti	no, nothing, not, don't	h	nanti	-	-	It	niente	Nanti vardering the cartes - Don't look at his basket!	-
-	-	-	ma	-	-	-	-	-	Nanti camp - here comes sharpy!	-
-	-	-	h	nanty	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	nantee	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	nanti riah	bald	ATH	-	-	a	-	-	I'm nanti riah - KH	-
5	nix	no, not, do not	h	nix	-	-	Ger	nichts	-	-
-	-	-	l	nish	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	dl	nishta	-	-	-	-	-	-

-	nix-mungarlee	nothing to eat, no food	h	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	nobber	nine	h	nobber	-	-	It	35370	-	-
-	-	-	l	nobba	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	nochy	night	h	nochy	n@utSi:	-	Sp	noche (It notte, LF note)	-	-

O

	Word	Meaning	Source	Alternate Spellings	Pronunciation	Part of Speech	Original Language	Original Form	Example	Comment
1	ogle	eye	a	ogle	'@ug@l	-	It	occhio,	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	E	ogle	-	-
-	-	-	j	ocal	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	a	ogale	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	oogle	'u:g@l	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	j	opal	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	ogale fakes	spectacles	a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	ogle riah s	eyelashes	b	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	.ola	intensive?	k	-	-	-	-	-	tradiola = trade	Or just to conceal meaning?
3	omi	man, landlord	-	omi	-	n	It	uomo	-	-
-	-	-	l	omie	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	r	omee	-	n	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	omy	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	omi-paloni	gay man	g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	omee-paloney	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	heterosexual	c	-	-	-	-	-	-	logical ("man-[for]-women") but rare?
5	oney	one	h	oney	-	-	It	una	-	-
6	onk	nose	dl	-	-	-	-	cf. esong, or onomat?	-	-
7	orb	eye	dl	orb	-	n (usu pl)	-	-	-	-
8	otter	eight	l	otter	-	-	It	-	-	-

P

	Word	Meaning	Source	Alternate Spellings	Pronunciation	Part of Speech	Original Language	Original Form	Example	Comment
1	pannam	bread	h	pannam	-	-	L	panem (It. pane)	-	-
-	-	-	h	pannum	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	palaver	talk, argument	h	palaver	-	n	-	-	-	-
-	-	argue, discuss	h	-	-	v	-	-	-	-
3	paloni	girl, young woman	-	paloni	p@'l@uni	n	It	pollone "chick"	-	-
-	-	-	-	palone	p@'l@un	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	paloney	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	pollone	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	polone	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	park	give, hand over	r	park	-	v	It	partire "pay out"	-	-
-	-	pay	l	parker	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	parnie	water	ph	parnie	-	-	-	-	dowry of parnie" - ph	-
-	-	rain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	plate (of ham)	fellate	k 25/9/68	-	-	n, vt	E rhyming slang	gamahouche	-	-
-	-	feed	dl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	pogy	small, a little	h	pogy	-	-	It	poco "little"	-	-
-	-	-	h	pogey	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	pogey acqua	a little water	h	pogey acqua	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	poll	wig	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	ponce	pimp	h	ponce	-	n	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	pont	-	-	Fr	prostitute" + Eng. 'punk'	-	-
11	ponte	pound sterling	h	ponte	-	-	It	pondo "weight"	-	-
-	-	-	h	poona	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Polari	speak	h	Polari	-	n	It.	Parlare (pagliare "to speak" - ph)	-	Since 1970, as L>A> notes, 1976,

										'gay' slang has come to be known in raffish, homosexual circles, as polari." - ph
-	-	speech	-	-	-	n	-	-	-	-
-	-	language	-	-	-	n	-	-	-	-
-	-	secret language of gay men	-	-	-	n	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Palary	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	Panarly	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	Parlare	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	Parlaree	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	Parlary	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	Parlyaree	-	-	-	-	-	h says Partridge distinguishes (gay) Polari from (circus) Parlyaree
13	punk	virgin male, male homosexual	b, h	-	-	n cf. US vt: "rape anally"	E punk Sp punto, puto "male prostitute"	-	-	-
-	-	male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	male prostitute	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Q

	Word	Meaning	Source	Alternate Spellings	<u>Pronunciation</u>	Part of Speech	Original Language	Original Form	Example	Comment
1	quattro	four	l	quattro	-	-	It	quattro	-	-
-	-	-	h	quater	-	-	It	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	quarter	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	quartereen	farthing, 1/4 of a penny	h	quartereen	-	n	It	quattrino	-	-
3	Queer-Ken	prison house	n	-	-	-	-	-	-	thieves' cant

4	queue	homosexual	k	queue	-	a	E queer or queen	-	she says Cyril Ritchard is q.!!! - k. 5/3/48	-
-	-	-	-	Q.	-	v	-	-	is the whole of London going q.ing? - k. 16/3/48	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	n	-	-	talked Q. [sic] for hours - k. 22/8/48	-

R

	Word	Meaning	Source	Alternate Spellings	<u>Pronunciation</u>	Part of Speech	Original Language	Original Form	Example	Comment
1	riah	hair	g	riah	rai@ [ri@ ?]	n	E back spelling	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sp	raya "parting in the hair"	-	-
-	-	-	h	raih	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	a, r	riha	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	riah shusher	hairdresser	dl	-	-	-	riah + shusher = zhoo[er]	-	-	-
3	rona lau	-	pc	-	-	-	-	-	Rona lau your lupper up the strillers, bona! - ATH	-

S

	Word	Meaning	Source	Alternate Spellings	<u>Pronunciation</u>	Part of Speech	Original Language	Original Form	Example	Comme
1	salter	one penny	h	salter	-	-	It	soldi	-	-
-	-	-	h	saltee	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	salty	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	saulty	-	-	-	-	-	-

2	savvy	know, understand	h	savvy	-	-	LF, Port.	sabir	-	prob fro Pidjin througl Eng.
3	say	six	l	say	-	-	It	sei	-	-
-	-	-	h	sa	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	say dooe	eight	h	say dooe	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	say oney	seven	h	say oney	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	say tray	nine	h	say tray	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	scarper	flee	h	scarper	-	-	It	scappare (Eng. rhyming slang: "Scapa Flow" go ?)	-	-
-	-	-	h	scapali	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	scarpy	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	screech	mouth	b	-	-	-	E	-	-	-
-	-	throat	b	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	screeve	write	h	-	-	v	It	scrivere	-	-
-	-	written material	h	-	-	n	-	-	-	-
10	setter	seven	l	setter	-	-	It	sette	-	-
11	shamsh(e?)	attractive man	k 24/10/47	-	-	n (pl only?)	E	smasher ?	met 2 marines - very charming. Bonar s.	-
12	sharper	policeman	h	-	-	n	It	cercare + Eng. "sharp"	-	-
13	sharpy	policeman	r	-	-	-	-	-	Sharpy's deekin', luv: the police have you staked out	cf. charp
14	sharpyng-omee	policeman	r	-	-	n	-	-	-	cf. charperi omee
15	sheesh	?	k 13/7/57	-	-	-	-	-	..who looks the full s.	-

16	shyckle	wig	r	shykle	-	n	cf. Yiddish shaytl, sheitel, from Ger. "crown of the head, parting"	-	-	-
-	-	-	dl	shyker	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	shush	steal (from client)	dl	-	Su;S?	v	cf. zhoosh	-	-	-
18	shush bag	holdall	dl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	slang	perform on stage	l	-	-	-	-	-	-	climb the slang-tree perform on stage
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	slang & dolly to the edge work & marionette on a small stage to attract an audience
20	slap	makeup	w	-	-	n	-	-	-	-
21	stamper	shoe	n	-	-	-	-	-	-	thieves cant
22	steamer	prostitute's client	j	-	-	n	E Rhyming slang	steam tug = mug	-	-
23	stish	performance?	ATH	-	-	n	-	schtick?	an audition, varda our stish"	-
24	strill	musical instrument, esp piano or violin	-	-	-	n	It	strillare, cry out, shriek	-	-
-	-	-	ph	-	-	-	Neapolitan cant	strillante, "cornet"	-	-
25	striller	piano key	-	-	-	n usu pl	-	-	Rona lau your luppers up the strillers, bona! -	-

									ATH	
26	sucey de bede	?	k 2/3/58, 11/7/58	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

T

	Word	Meaning	Source	Alternate Spellings	Pronunciation	Part of Speech	Original Language	Original Form	Example	Comment
1	tat	tatty thing(s)	k	-	-	n	E	tatter	-	-
2	TBH	sexually available (but not gay?)	j	-	-	-	E	To Be Had	-	-
-	-	sexual interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	says she's got a big TBH with me - 16/11/50	-
3	the	article, often used [redundantly,	k	-	-	-	-	-	going down on him for t. fellatio - 24/4/72	-
4	tober	road	ph	tober	-	n	Irish (back-formed)	bother	-	to tailors and tramps
-	-	circus-ground	ph	-	-	-	-	-	-	to circus people
5	tober omee	landlord	h	tober omee	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	tosheroon	two shillings and sixpence	h	tosheroon	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	tusheroon	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	tusseroon	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	trade	casual sex, person offering it, esp. not gay-identified	-	-	-	-	-	-	we had t. chat - 10/5/58	-
8	traditional	concerning t	k	-	-	-	-	-	a t.piece - 3/7/57	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	in the hope of t. entertainment - 4/4/52	-
9	tradey	concerning t	-	-	-	-	-	-	all very charming and t. - 12/6/52	-

10	tray	three	l	tray	-	-	It	tre	-	-
11	troll	go, walk	-	-	-	-	E	-	-	-
-	-	esp. looking for trade	dl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

U

	Word	Meaning	Source	Alternate Spellings	<u>Pronunciation</u>	Part of Speech	Original Language	Original Form	Example	Comment
1	una	one	l	una	-	-	It	una	-	-
-	-	-	h	oney	-	-	-	-	-	-

V

	Word	Meaning	Source	Alternate Spellings	<u>Pronunciation</u>	Part of Speech	Original Language	Original Form	Example	Comment
1	vaggerie	go, leave, travel	h	vaggerie	-	-	It	viaggiare	-	-
2	valley drags	trousers	a	-	-	-	-	-	-	lally drags?
3	varda	see, look	-	varda	-	v	cf. Venetian	vardia "a look"	-	-
-	-	-	ph	-	-	-	It ult. f. L	vedo, I see, ult. f. video	-	-
-	-	a look	-	-	-	n	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	varder	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	vardo	-	-	-	-	-	but cf. also Romany vardo "Gypsy waggon"
-	-	-	h	vardy	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	r	verda	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	voche	voice	h	voche	-	-	It	voce	-	-
5	vogue	cigarette	b	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

W

	Word	Meaning	Source	Alternate Spellings	<u>Pronunciation</u>	Part of Speech	Original Language	Original Form	Example	Comment
1	wallop	dance	h	wallop	-	-	It	gallopare	-	-
2	walloper	dancer	h	walloper	-	-	-	-	-	-

XYZ

	Word	Meaning	Source	Alternate Spellings	Pronunciation	Part of Speech	Original Language	Original Form	Example	Comment
1	zhoosh	style (hair)	b	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	throw	b	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

NUMBERS

	Word	Meaning	Source	Alternate Spellings	Pronunciation	Part of Speech	Original Language	Original Form	Example	Comment
1	una	one	l	una	-	-	It	una	-	-
-	-	-	h	oney	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	dewey	two	l	dewey	-	-	It	due	-	-
-	-	-	-	doee	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	duey	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	tray	three	l	tray	-	-	It	tre	-	-
4	quattro	four	l	quattro	-	-	It	quattro	-	-
-	-	-	h	quater	-	-	It	-	-	-
-	-	-	h	quarter	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	chinker	five	l	chinker	-	-	It	cinque	-	-
-	-	-	h	chikwa	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	say	six	l	say	-	-	It	sei	-	-
-	-	-	h	sa	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	setter	seven	l	setter	-	-	It	sette	-	-
-	say oney	seven	h	say oney	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	otter	eight	l	otter	-	-	It	-	-	-
-	say doee	eight	h	say doee	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	nobber	nine	h	nobber	-	-	It	35370	-	-
-	-	-	l	nobba	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	say tray	nine	h	say tray	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	daiture	ten	l	daiture	-	-	It	dieci	-	-
-	-	-	-	dacha	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	deger	'dedSa	-	-	-	-	-
11	long-dedger	eleven	h	long-dedger	-	-	It	undici	-	-

SOURCE REFERENCES:

Gaytalk by Bruce Rodgers, Paragon, G028 ROD

The Homosexual Society by Hauser, Richard, Bodley Head 1962

Henry Mayhew's *London Labour and the London Poor* (1861) e.g. Vol. 3, p. 47, "Punch Talk"

Robert Leach *The Punch and Judy Show* - the example here is from a privately recorded interview with an aging showman.

However Partridge does mention a lexicon *Vardi the Parlary* by Sydney Lester.

ATH - *Around The Horne*

BOK - *Beyond Our Ken*

a = Alcock in *Walking Aftar Midnight*, Routledge 1989, ISBN 0-415-02956-2

aw = Andrea Woelke, St Cuthbert's Society, Durham d.a.woelke@durham.ac.uk

b = Peter Burton, *Parallel Lives*, GMP 1985, ISBN-0-907040-65-9

bl = Sue Blackwell <BLACKWELLSA@VMS1.ACADEMIC-COMPUTING-SERVICE.BIRMINGHAM.AC.UK>

bo = Andrew Boniface boniface@math.ohio-state.edu)

c = Colin 1993

d = David, Awhina Centre 18/10/94

dl = Daniel Long <dlong@joho.osaka-shoin.ac.jp> quoting Polari by Chris Denning <http://www.cygnnet.co.uk/~cdenning/polari.html>

g = *Guardian* article 29/7/90

gb = George C Bourne
15c Saunders Place
WANGANUI 5001

h = Ian Hancock "Shelta and Polari" in *Language in the British Isles*, ed. Trudgill, CUP 1984
N.B. this list was sorted and citations written in IPA.
My translation into ASCII phonetics.

j = John in *Between the Acts*, Kevin Porter ed., Routledge 1991, ISBN 0-415-00944-8 [an interviewee identified only as John in an oral history written/transcribed/edited by Porter, the Acts being those of 1885 and 1967]

k = *The Kenneth Williams Diaries*, Russell Davies ed., Harper Collins, ISBN 0 00 255023 7

l = *Impertinent Decorum, Gay Theatrical Manouvres* by Ian Lucas, Cassell 1994

m = Mike Atkinson mikea@dircon.co.uk

n = *Mother Clap's Molly House, The Gay Subculture in England, 1700 - 1830*, GMP 1992, quoted in l

pd = Eric Partridge *Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English*, Macmillan

ph = Eric Partridge *Here, There and Everywhere*

pc = Philip Clark pclark@oldec1.agw.bt.co.uk

pg = Paul Giaccone k941319@kingston.ac.uk

r = Rodgers, *The Queens' Vernacular*, Blond and Briggs, Straight Arrow Books 1972, SBN 85634 018 9

s = "Sons of Sawdust" by Edward Seago, *Language in the British Isles* ed. Trudgill (CUP 1984)

© Hugh Young 1996 and David England 1997

E-mail us if you like on hugh@young.wn.planet.gen.nz and david@cello.prestel.co.uk or go to the [Pronunciation](#) guide or [David England's home page](#).