

SOUTHERN TONGUE

*A Dictionary of
Southern Expressions*



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NOMAD PUBLISHING

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*For my family,
and anyone who misses someone.*

Preface

The way I figure it, Southern dialect is as much a noteworthy part of Southern culture as corn bread and crawfish, hillbillies and honky tonks, or even, dare I say, Lynyrd Skynyrd. Southerners take great pride in their powers of expression and most would be delighted to spend an afternoon tellin' you all about it. Yep, armed with a slew of "y'all"s and "yonder"s, as well as the ever-present drawl, the Southern tongue is indeed a force to be reckoned with.

Yet, as I mosey on down the road of life, I occasionally cross paths with those who are not quite so familiar with this lingo that we Southerners hold so dear. I often find myself being questioned as to just what the hell I'm talkin' about. Other times these strange people know exactly what I'm talkin' about, but instead find great humor in mockin' my Southern manner of speakin'. ("Whar yew frum, boy? Heh, heh.")

I reckon enough attention has been called to the silly things that we say to justify a reference guide to our beautifully descriptive and often humorously twisted brand of colloquialisms; a reference for those not fortunate enough to have been born in the South and a testament to those who were. This book is my best attempt to create such a thing, in effort to present and preserve the Southern tongue, and hopefully it will serve to learn y'all just what the hell we're talkin' about.

Damon Bonds
Houston, Texas

Thank You Much:

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Neva Bonds, Ronald Bonds, Toby Boothe,
Chris Elliot, Danielle Gilbert, Jessica Guerrero,
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Gloria Morris, Paul Netherland, Josh Pershall,
Shirley Shofner, Jim Stevens, Tom Swarthout,
Len Vaughn, Lenard Vaughn, Linda Vaughn,
J. D. Webb, Jim West, Kevin West,
and Dan Wright

Introduction

Southern Tongue is a compilation of words, expressions, colloquialisms, and proverbs common to the Southern United States. Much of the information presented here was donated by bonified Southerners who were asked to provide expressions commonly used in their daily communication, but that might not be so common outside of the South; expressions that they felt were quintessentially Southern. As such, this is a book written by the South, about the South. It allows us to see the South as the South sees itself. It gives us a greater look at the expressions in current use and living memory rather than outdated literary lingo and civil war terms.

The purpose of this book is to provide a reference tool to the language of the South for those who might not readily understand it. It exists to entertain the Southerner and to educate the non-Southerner. More than that it is simply a gift to the South, to stand as a monument to our ancestors and to be passed along to our children.

This collection is a large part of who we are; colorful and creative, ornery and original. This book would not exist if not for the hospitality, inspiration, and support of many proud Southerners who endeavor to keep the American culture diverse by continuing to use these flavorful expressions. We hope you enjoy reading this book as much as we enjoy *being* it.

Disclaimer

Southern lingo, however unique, is merely a thread of the American fabric. Dialects across America have blended over decades, and some once regional expressions are now heard nationwide. “Come hell or high water”, for example, is commonplace across the United States and “pert near” has been uttered by people from such strange places as New York City. Likewise, expressions from elsewhere have been assimilated and made our own by collective use, alternate pronunciation, and regional connotations. As such, no claim is made that all entries are exclusively Southern or necessarily of Southern origin; however, these words and expressions “hit home” with enough Southerners to be included and most entries were submitted via “the grapevine” by the South’s finest.

Please note that some of the expressions herein may be considered distasteful in certain circles, but were included due to the fact that they exist. The use of these “questionable” words is strongly discouraged and where they occur in the following text, a reminder of the offensive nature of the word has been given in lieu of a sample sentence. In addition, the Confederate flag is currently under attack; however, it was ultimately selected for the cover of this book as it remains the number one icon of the South. For the purposes of this book, the flag represents the South and Southern culture, in common, and nothing more.

~A~

a---used before any verb,
pronounced “uh”

*I'm a goin' a fishin' come
Sun-up.*

aback of---behind

*If yer lookin' fer Daddy,
he's aback of the house
mowin' the yard.*

a coon's age---
a very long time

*I haven't seen you in a
coon's age! How have
you been?*

actin' up---1) hurting,
ailing

*Granny cain't walk too
fast on account of her
knees are actin' up.*

2) misbehaving

*You kids are gonna get a
whippin' if y'all don't quit
actin' up!*

addled---confused

*These crossword puzzles
get me plum addled.*

a doin'---a happening,
an event

*There's a doin' up at the
fair grounds this weekend.
It must be time for the
annual chili cook-off.*

a far cry from---
incomparable to;
of lesser quality

*I've got a nice house, but
it's a far cry from the
Playboy mansion.*

afeared

afeared---afraid, scared

*I ain't afeared of the dark,
Momma, but will you leave
the hall light on anyway?*

afore---before

*You best come inside
afore you catch a cold.*

agin'---against

*Don't lean agin' the car.
You might scratch it.*

a good bit---a substantial
amount

*We got a pretty good
bit of rain yesterday.*

a great while---a long time

*I haven't seen you in a
great while.*

a hair---a small increment;
a little bit

*Could you scoot over a hair
and give me some elbow
room?*

aholt---1) a hold, a grasp

*Grab ahold of the rope
and I'll pull you up.*

2) in contact with

*Whar you been? I've been
tryin' to get ahold of you
all day.*

aig---a common
pronunciation of "egg"

*Go out to the chicken
coop and fetch some aigs
fer breakfast.*

aim to/aimin' to---
to have intent to do

*I aim to kill me a deer
by sundown.*

ain't seen much of

ain't---1) am not, are not,
is not

Robert: *You ain't from
around here, are ya?*

Ellen: *No, I ain't.*

2) have not

I ain't seen you in ages.

3) a common pronunciation
of "aunt"

ain't got no---"have no"

I ain't got no extra money.

**ain't got none (of them
thar)**---"don't have any
(of those)"

Customer: *Ain't ya got
none of them thar moon
pies?*

Clerk: *Nope. I ain't got
none.*

ain't much to look at---
unattractive; displeasing
to the eye

*This ol' truck ain't much
to look at, but she's real
dependable.*

ain't never---have not ever

*I ain't never been to the
big city.*

ain't no skin off my ass---
"It doesn't affect or
bother me"

Husband: *Do you mind if
I go out bowlin' with the
boys tonight?*

Wife: *Ain't no skin off my
ass. Tonight's my bridge
night anyhow.*

ain't seen much of---
have not encountered

*I ain't seen much of him
since he moved to Memphis.*

aintser

aintser---pronunciation of
“answer”

They should put me on Jeopardy. I know all the aintsers.

air up---to inflate

I need to stop by the gas station and air up my tires.

akin---related

Paw says we're akin to half the population of Louisiana.

all bark and no bite---
“all talk and no action”

Just ignore him. He's all bark and no bite.

all hat and no cattle---
“all image”; said of
those who portray
themselves as something
they are not; (see
“all bark and no bite”)

She struts around like she's the belle of the ball, but I think she's all hat and no cattle.

alligator pear---an avocado

I never have really liked alligator pears.

all she wrote---an end to
something

We were fixin' to set that cat on fire, but mama caught us, and that was all she wrote.

all vine and no taters---
(see “all bark and no bite”)

Don't worry, my dog won't bite you. She sounds viscous but she's all vine and no taters.

a load of corn---a lie

She acts like she's poor, but that's a load a corn.

alright then---o.k., agreed

Ma: *I'll go get the movies
if you'll go get the beer.*
Pa: *Alright then.*

alrighty---o.k., agreed

Joe: *I'll pick you up at 6:00.*
Courtney: *Alrighty. I'll be
waitin' fer ya.*

a mite---a fair amount

*I feel a mite tired. I reckon
I'm due for some shut-eye.*

animule---animal

*Paw, can we go to the
zoo and see the animules?*

antsy---restless, hyper,
anxious

*You're awful antsy. How
many cups of coffee have
you had today?*

**any further than one
can throw**---none at all

*I don't trust him any further
than I can throw him.*

anyhow---anyway

*I missed the bus, but I
didn't really want to go,
anyhow.*

anymore---nowadays,
currently

*Anymore, it's all I can do
just to get up and go to
work.*

anywho---anyhow

Anywho, I gotta go now.

a piece---a short distance

*There's a creek with a nice
swimmin' hole just up the
road a piece.*

a plenty

a plenty---plenty, enough,
a large amount

*You shouldn't come visit in
summer lessen you like
mosquitoes a plenty.*

Appalachians---a mountain
range common to many
Southern states

*I broke my leg hiking in
the Appalachians.*

apple picker---
a "pooper scooper" for
horses

*The worst job I ever had
was following a parade with
an apple picker.*

Arkansas toothpick---
1) a Bowie knife;
any large knife

*I once saw a man cut
another man from ear to
ear with an Arkansas
toothpick.*

2) the bone in a raccoon's
penis, sold as a novelty
toothpick

*You can buy an Arkansas
Toothpick at any Southern
truckstop.*

Arkie---a person born,
raised, or living in
Arkansas

*I've got a friend who
married an Arkie. Now
they're livin' somewhere
in the Ozarks.*

ary---any

*I bought three new guns,
but I ain't had a chance
to shoot ary of them.*

a sight for sore eyes---
someone beautiful to
behold; a compliment

*Well, aren't you a sight for
sore eyes! You're sure to
win the beauty contest.*

**as much chance as a
one-legged man at an
ass-kickin’ contest---**
no chance at all

*I don’t think she’d ever
go out with me. I’ve got
about as much chance as
a one-legged man at an
ass-kickin’ contest.*

ass end---rear end; back
side

*I backed into a tree and tore
up the ass end of my truck.*

ass whippin’---physical
punishment; a spanking;
a beating

*That dog’s gonna get an
ass whippin’ next time I
catch him chewin’ on my
shoes!*

as the crow flies---
distance in a straight
line between two points,
as opposed to a longer
route

*It’s only thirty miles to
Grandma’s house as the
crow flies, but I like to
take the back roads.*

as the day is long---
expression adding
emphasis to the point
being made

*That Chihuahua is as ugly
as the day is long.*

**as welcome as a skunk at
a lawn party---**
positively not welcome

*I think you should leave
now. You’re about as
welcome around here as
a skunk at a lawn party.*

‘at---common pronunciation
of “that”

*‘At’s got to be the laziest
dog I ever did see.*

a talkin' to

a talkin' to---a lecture;
verbal punishment

I gave that boy a good talkin' to, but I don't think it did a bit of good.

a'tall---at all

I broke my toe, but it didn't hurt a'tall.

ate supper before they said Grace---said of couples having sex before marriage

Them two ought to be ashamed of themselves. You know they ate supper before they said Grace.

ate up---infected

I can't make it to work today on account of I'm ate up with the flu.

ate up with the dumbasses---to lack focus, to be clumsy or foolish

I lost my wallet, locked my keys in the car, and stubbed my toe. I think I'm ate up with the dumbasses.

attaboy/attagirl---common praise

Attaboy! I knew you could do it!

a ways---a moderate distance

We're gettin' closer, but Grandma's house is still a ways away.

awful---very, excessively

You need to stay in bed. You're awful sick.

a whole nuther---another, separate from

...but now that's a whole nuther story altogether.

awrite---“all right”;
in response to “How are
you?”, used as a greeting
to save the other person
from having to ask

Boudreaux: *Awrite.*

Broussard: *Awrite.*

axe to grind---a dispute to
address; a problem to
discuss

*I've got an axe to grind
with that boy. He ain't
showed up for work all
week.*

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~B~

backasswards/
bassackwards---
backwards

*I wonder if that feller
knows he's got his shirt
on backasswards?*

back in the day---“when
times were better”;
long ago

*Back in the day, I could
box with the best of 'em.*

backwoods---1) residing
or raised in the woods;
implies ignorance or
low social standing

*My daughter decided to
marry some backwoods
moron.*

2) deep forest, far from
civilization

*We got lost in the
backwoods and it took us
three days to find a road.*

bad blood---ill feelings,
hatred

*My in-laws hate me.
There's years of bad
blood between us.*

bad mouth---to insult or
speak negatively of
someone or something

*Don't you be bad mouthin'
my cookin'. I'll whup you
good!*

bad off---in bad shape,
not well

*Bubba got hit by a car
and now he's pretty bad
off.*

Bama/Bamy---the state of
Alabama

*Uncle Pete once shot a
man down in Bamy.*

barking up the wrong tree

banjo---a stringed instrument common in the South

I used to play the banjo when I was a kid. Nothin' like sittin' around with yer friends, a pickin' and a grinnin'.

banquette---sidewalk (Cajun)

You know you had a good time in New Orleans when you find yourself throwin' up on the banquette at four in the mornin'.

bar---a common pronunciation of "bear"

I seen a bar out back last week. So be careful out there!

bar-B-Q---barbecue; a "get together" where barbecue is cooked and served

I'm goin' to a bar-B-Q down at the park. Wanna come?

bard---a common pronunciation of "borrowed"

Damn it, Ethel! Your brother bard 20 dollars from me, 6 months ago, and he still ain't paid me back!

barking spider---a fictitious scapegoat for an accidental expulsion of gas from the body

Ma: *Did you just fart?*
Pa: *Nope. It musta been a barkin' spider.*

barking up the wrong tree---approaching the wrong person

If you're comin' to me for advice, you're barkin' up the wrong tree.

bark is worse than one's bite

bark is worse than one's

bite---insinuates that someone is "all talk and no action"

*I ain't skeered of you.
Your bark is worse than
your bite.*

barn raisin'---a gathering for the purpose of erecting a barn.

*There's gonna be a barn
raisin' over at Willard's
place next Friday.*

barrel into---to leap into, to plunge into, to run into, to collide with

*Don't barrel off into the
lake. You might land on a
rock and hurt yourself.*

barry---pronunciation of "borrow"

Can I barry a cup of sugar?

bayou---a narrow "finger" of a larger body of water

*You should've seen the size
of the fish I caught down at
the bayou.*

beautimous---beautiful; excellent

*That sunset is absolutely
beautimous!*

beat with an ugly stick---to be extremely physically unattractive

*Damn! Someone must've
beat her with an ugly
stick!*

beat/kick the tar/fire---to pummel excessively

*I beat the tar outta that dog
last time he chewed up my
shoes.*

bedpost---to confine a small child by putting his/her shirt tail under a bedpost

*Children! I'll bedpost you
both if y'all don't quit
fightin'!*

bet the farm

beehind---pronunciation
of “behind”; buttocks

*You smart off to me one
more time and I’mone
spank your beehind!*

beer barn---a drive-through
liquor store

*Stop at the beer barn and
pick me up a twelve-pack.*

beholden---indebted

*Thanks for your help. I’m
forever beholden to you.*

belle---a beautiful girl

*My girlfriend is a real
Southern belle.*

belle of the ball---the
prettiest girl at a social
function

*Don’t you look beautiful!
You’re gonna be the belle
of the ball!*

bellyache---to whine or
complain

*Must you always bitch
and bellyache when you
don’t get your way?*

best---“better”

*You best behave or I’ll give
you a whippin’ you’ll never
forget!*

**better than a sharp stick
in the eye**---“better than
nothing”; not as bad as it
could be

*Jesse: I only won five
dollars at the casino.
Earl: Well, that’s better
than a sharp stick in the
eye!*

bet the farm---to wager
everything

*The value of that stock is
rising fast, but I wouldn’t
bet the farm on it!*

betweenst

betweenst---between

*He made me so mad I
hailed off and punched
him right betweenst the
eyes.*

be ugly---to be mean

*Don't be ugly to your sister!
That's not very nice.*

bible belt---used to refer to
the South as a place of
strong religious belief

*Watch your mouth! They
won't put up with that
kind of blaspheme in
the bible belt.*

bickerin'---1) arguing

*My wife and I went to
marriage counseling, but
we just couldn't quit
bickerin'.*

2) complaining

*Quit yer bickerin'. I'm
tired of listenin' to it.*

bigger 'n Dallas---“bigger
than Dallas”; surely,
definitely

*My grandmother's got the
luck of the Irish. Put her
in front of a slot machine
and, bigger 'n Dallas, she's
gonna win.*

big pile---a great deal

MaMa loves you big pile.

birthin'---giving birth (to)

*As a male, birthin' and
breast feedin' are not my
areas of expertise.*

bleedin' like a stuck pig

bitch---the middle of a bench automobile seat as opposed to the driver's position on the left and "shotgun" on the right.

You rode shotgun on the way here so you have to ride bitch on the way back.

bite off more than one can chew---to undertake more than one can handle

I bit off more than I can chew. There's no way I'll have all this work done by my deadline.

bite one's tongue---1) to immediately regret having said something

I bit my tongue for invitin' Mildred to the show. I was just tryin' to be polite.

2) to refrain from speaking

Boy, you'll bite your tongue if you want to live to see tomorrow!

bite to eat---a meal

I shore am hungry. You wanna go get a bite to eat?

blacker than Toby's ass---extremely black or dark

That's one hell of a shiner you got there. It's blacker than Toby's ass!

black-eyed peas and rooster knees---black-eyed peas and chicken legs

Momma says we're havin' black-eyed peas and rooster knees for supper.

bleedin' like a stuck pig---bleeding profusely

I stepped on a nail and started bleedin' like a stuck pig.

bless your heart

bless your heart---1) an affectionate expression of pity

Ol' Bessie never was much to look at, bless her heart.

2) an expression of affection or appreciation

Grandson: I brought you some flowers, Granny.

Granny: Well, bless your heart! Aren't you just the sweetest thing!

blinky---spoiled (milk)

I always check the baby's milk to make sure it hasn't gone blinky.

blood---a relative

I'd do anything for you. After all, you're blood.

blowed up---blew up

Jimmy lit a firecracker, but it blowed up in his hand before he could throw it.

blow in/blowed in/blew in---to arrive suddenly

My brother blew in last night around 7:00.

blowin' smoke---talking about doing something rather than actually doing it; lying

She says she's gonna quit her job, but I think she's just blowin' smoke.

blowin' smoke up one's ass---lying to or deceiving someone

She says she loves me, but she's just blowin' smoke up my ass.

blue as a possums cod---
a deep blue

*Remember when you
choked on that chicken
bone? I swear your face
turned as blue as a
possums cod.*

bluegrass---a style of
free-form country music
popular in the South

*There's nothin' quite like
that good ol' Tennessee
bluegrass.*

blue norther---a cold
front from the arctic,
void of precipitation
(see "norther")

*Better take your coat to
school today. There's a
blue norther on the way.*

blues---a musical style
popular in the South

*You gotta pay yer dues to
learn to play the blues.*

bobo/booboo---juvenile
lingo for a cut, a bruise,
or any injury

*Awww, did her fall down
an' get a booboo?*

bob war---a common
pronunciation of
"barbed wire"

*I need to put up a bob
war fence to keep my
cows in.*

bodacious---exceptional;
grand

*She was the most bodacious
woman I've ever met!*

boll weevil---a disreputable
person

*That no good boll weevil
stole my John Deere!*

bone to pick---something
to confront or question
someone about

*Have you seen Fanny Mae?
I've got a bone to pick with
her.*

boocoo(s)

boocoo(s)---a common pronunciation of the French “beaucoup”; a large quantity

I've got boocoos of work to get done today.

boogered up---botched, broken, blemished

I used to have a nice couch, but now it's all boogered up from the dog chewin' on it.

boogie---to hurry

We need to boogie or we're gonna be late!

boogie man---fictitious person that children believe is coming to harm them

Momma, can I sleep with you so the boogie man won't get me?

book it---to leave hastily; to do something quickly

We need to book it or we're gonna be late.

book read---educated

I ain't book read, but I've got plenty of common sense.

boonies---“boondocks”; an isolated area away from civilization; any “out of the way” place

I'd probably go see Granny more often if she didn't live out in the boonies.

boss man---the boss; an employer; a supervisor

I don't know if I can get off for the fishin' trip. I guess it depends what kinda mood the boss man is in.

bottom---a low lying area
of land, usually marshy

*I got the four-wheeler stuck
down in the bottom. I need
someone to come help pull
me out.*

bottom of the barrel---
of the worst quality

*The only reason you got
that car for so cheap is
because it was the bottom
of the barrel.*

boudin---a spicy Cajun
sausage made with rice
and meat; pronounced
“BOOdan”

*Try a piece of this shrimp
boudin that Merle cooked.*

bought the farm---died

*It's been years since
Granny bought the farm,
but I still miss her.*

bouncin' off the walls---
extremely hyper, over
active, nervous

*My little sister is constantly
bouncin' off the walls.*

bound to---certain to

*With all those clouds in the
sky, it's bound to start
raining.*

Bourbon Street---a street
in the French Quarter of
New Orleans infamous
for it's wild nightlife.

*As long as I live, I will
never forget seein' my
sister pukin' on Bourbon
Street. That was one wild
night!*

‘bout---about, almost,
nearly

*I 'bout had a heart attack
when I saw the bill!*

box one's ears

box one's ears---to punish, assault

You best clean your room or your Daddy's gonna box your ears when he gets home!

boy howdy---a general exclamation used to emphasize it's context

Boy howdy! That's some damn hot chili!

boy, I mean---
(see "I mean to tell you")

*Dixie Jean: Damn it's hot!
Lucy Lou: Boy, I mean!*

britches---pants or underpants

Honey, would you put your britches on and go to the store for me?

bro/bra---brother, friend

What's up, Bra? Long time, no see.

brown sugar---reference to the libido of black women

Uncle Willie came back from N'Orluns talkin' about bourbon and brown sugar.

brung---brought

I brung 15 pounds of potato salad to the picnic and not a single person ate any.

Bubba---a "good ol' boy"; a redneck or hick; usually implies a slow mentality

*Sara: So what's your brother like?
Beth: You wouldn't like him. He's a Bubba.*

bug---an illness

Everyone at the office is out sick. Must be a bug goin' around.

buggy---a shopping cart

Go fetch me a buggy so we don't have to carry everything.

built like a brick

shithouse---of high quality, very attractive; said of a beautiful woman

You should see Bill's sister. She's built like a brick shithouse!

bull corn---expression of disbelief

Oh bull corn! You can't sit here and tell me a lie like that. I know better.

bull hockey---expression of disbelief

Bull hockey! I know you only called to borrow money.

bullshit---1) expression of disbelief

Wilbur: I shot a twelve point buck yesterday!
Cooter: Bullshit! You couldn't shoot the broad side of a barn!

2) unacceptable

My boss didn't give us a Christmas bonus this year and frankly, I think that's bullshit!

3) to mislead, manipulate

DJ: Caller #10, you are the thousand dollar grand prize winner!
Winner: No way! Are you bullshittin' me?

4) to talk about nothing in particular

I just called to bullshit with you.

bush hoggin'

bush hoggin'---driving
off-road for fun

*Hey Skeeter, let's get
liquored up and go bush
hoggin' tonight. Ya wanna?*

bushwhacked---ambushed

*The troop was marching
home when they were
bushwhacked from the
North.*

butt-ass necked---
completely naked

*She come a runnin' into
the livin' room, butt-ass
necked!*

butter beans---lima beans

*When I was a kid, I couldn't
stand the taste of butter
beans.*

buttercup---a term of
endearment

*C'mere, buttercup, and hug
your Granny's neck.*

by---1) short for "bayou"
(see "bayou")

*I long for the days of fishin'
on the by.*

2) at

*You can sleep by my house
tonight if ya want to.*

~C~

cain't---pronunciation of
“can't”

*I got my pickup stuck in the
mud and I cain't get it out.*

Cajun---a resident or
native of Southern
Louisiana; descendant
of French immigrants;
pertaining to Cajun
culture

*Them Cajuns sho' know
how to throw a party!*

**can't beat that with a
stick**---“that can't be
beat”; “You can't
complain about good
fortune”

*Joe Bob: My boss closed
the shop down for a week.
I'm goin' to Disneyworld.
Bobby Joe: Well, you can't
beat that with a stick.*

**can't carry a tune in
a bucket**---said of
someone who sings
poorly

*Poor girl. She's pretty
to look at, but she can't
carry a tune in a bucket.*

can't hardly---“can
hardly”; a common
double negation

*I'm so excited I can't
hardly set still!*

can't see straight---to be
impaired; adds emphasis
to the cause

*I'm so damn tired I can't
see straight!*

carry---to drive

*Could someone please
carry me to the store?*

carryin' on

- carryin' on**---making excess noise, creating commotion, celebrating *What's all that carryin' on up there? You kids best get to sleep!*
- catawampus**---crooked, out of place, misaligned *Will you straighten that picture while you're up. It's all catawampus.*
- catty-corner**---diagonal to/from *In checkers, you can only move catty-corner from the square you're on.*
- caught with one's pants down**---caught off guard or unprepared; caught committing a mischievous deed *Iris: I heard you caught ol' Jethro with his pants down.
Daisy: Yeah, he told me he was workin' late, but I saw his car down at the strip club.*
- chaps my ass/hide**---makes me mad *Willie took my fishin' pole without askin'. That really chaps my ass!*
- chaw**---chewing tobacco *Grandma used to keep her chaw in her apron pocket.*
- chew(ing) the fat**---to talk, talking *My wife sits on the phone chewin' the fat all day.*
- chicken fried steak**---tenderized beef dipped in an egg, milk, and flour mixture and fried in oil *Chicken fried steak is a standard dish at any Southern restaurant.*
-

Chicken Ranch---a once
infamous Texas brothel

*I've heard many a tale
about the Chicken Ranch
out near La Grange.*

chickenscratch---1) poor
handwriting

*I can't read this
chickenscratch.*

2) an insignificant
amount (of money)

*I'm tired of workin' my
fingers to the bone for
chickenscratch.*

chickenshit---a coward,
cowardly

*Don't be such a
chickenshit. There's no
reason to be afraid of
the dark.*

chigger---a parasitic flea
found in forests

*I think I got into some
chiggers in the woods.
My ankles itch.*

chilluns---“children”

*Gather up the chilluns and
let's go get some ice cream.*

chitlins---“chitterlings”;
fried pig intestines

*We're havin' chitlins for
dinner. Mmmmm.*

chompin' at the bit---
overly anxious

*Joe's lookin' forward to the
baseball game. He's just
chompin' at the bit to play.*

Chooseday---common
pronunciation of
“Tuesday”

*I'm off next Chooseday.
Let's go fishin'.*

chunk

chunk---to throw

We spent the whole day chunkin' rocks in the lake.

chunkin' rock---a rock of the proper size and shape to make a worthy projectile

I don't see any more good chunkin' rocks. I think we done throwed 'em all.

chunk of change---a large quantity of money

I lost a pretty good chunk of change at the casino.

cipher---to do arithmetic, to count

I never did learn to cipher much. I still have to take my shoes off to count to 20.

city folk---people accustomed to life in the city; urbanites

You city folk wouldn't know what to do without your cell-phones and pizza delivery.

clean one's plow---to punish, to assault

I'm gonna clean your plow if you don't go mow the yard!

clobber---to assault

I used to clobber my sister daily when we were kids.

clod-hoppers---boots, shoes

Get your clod-hoppers off my coffee table.

cobbler---a fruit pie with a thick upper crust

I'd drive a thousand miles for some of Momma's peach cobbler.

coke---any carbonated beverage; a soda pop

What kind of coke do you want?

**cold as a well digger's
ass**---very cold

Ma: *Go out and get us
some more firewood.*

Pa: *Shit no! It's cold as
a well digger's ass out
there!*

cold as a witch's tit---
very cold

*I think he's dead. He's
as cold as a witch's tit.*

cold drink---a carbonated
beverage; a soda pop

*Come on in outta the heat
and have yourself a cold
drink.*

colored---African-American;
may be considered
offensive

*Once upon a time, white
folks and colored folks
couldn't eat at the same
restaurant together.*

colt---a pronunciation of
“cold”

*Southern winters ain't very
colt.*

come---1) came

*The Sun come up about an
hour ago.*

2) upon the occurrence
of

*Come Sun up, we're goin'
fishin'.*

Come again---a request
for one to repeat oneself

*Come again. I didn't hear
you.*

come back---a rebuttal,
usually in response to
an insult

*Willie insulted me and, for
the life of me, I just couldn't
think of a good come back.*

come back to bite me on the ass

come back to bite me on the ass---“got me in the end”; when bad karma comes around full circle

All that tax evasion came back to bite me on the ass.

come hell or high water---one way or another, no matter what

I'm gonna retire by forty come hell or high water!

come see---come here, come look

Mildred, come see! I need to talk to you.

come unglued---to become enraged

I come unglued when I heard Kennedy was shot.

come uppins---deserved punishment; a scolding

Little Bessie got her come uppins for talkin' out loud in church.

comme ci, comme ca---(French) “like this, like that”; equivalent to “so-so”; neither good nor bad; pronounced “CUMsee, CUMsah”

Amy: How'd you like the movie?

Courtney: Eh, comme ci, comme ca.

Como?---pronunciation of “Comment?” (French); How?; What?

Maw: Are you listenin' to me?

Damon: Como?

Maw: I didn't think so.

conniption (fit)---a tantrum, an outburst of anger

Yes, you can have some ice cream. Don't have a conniption fit.

cook off---an organized,
festive, cooking contest

*We won third place in the
annual chili cook off.*

cook out---gathering where
food is prepared outdoors

*We're havin' a cook out
down at the park this
weekend.*

cook up---to prepare food

*Pick up some potatoes on
your way home. I'm gonna
cook us up a stew.*

'coon---1) a derogatory
reference to an African-
American

*(The use of this term is
often considered offensive.)*

2) a raccoon

*We've got a bad problem
with 'coons gettin' in the
trash.*

'coon ass---a person born,
raised, or living in
Louisiana, particularly
the Northern portion

*Most of my relatives are
coon ass.*

cooter---1) a turtle

*I accidentally run over a
cooter crossin' the road this
mornin'.*

2) a vagina

*That woman's jeans was
so tight, you could see her
cooter just as plain as day!*

cop a squat---a command
to squat or sit down

*Cop a squat and take a look
at this here spider.*

corn bread

corn bread---bread made from cornmeal, eggs, and milk

MaMa used to make corn bread every Saturday for breakfast.

corn cracker---a poor white farmer/person; may be considered offensive

His whole family is nothin' but a bunch of no good corn crackers!

corner store---any convenience store, not necessarily on a corner

Go on down to the corner store and pick me up some lottery tickets and a pack of smokes.

corn fed---of healthy stature or high quality

There's plenty of good, corn fed women in the South.

corn pone---corn bread made without milk or eggs (see "corn bread")

When I was a kid, we were so poor, we could barely afford corn pone.

corn squeezin's---corn liquor, moonshine (see "moonshine")

Grandpa keeps his corn squeezin's locked up in the liquor cabinet.

cotton pickin'---lousy, of poor quality

That cotton pickin' son of a bitch stole my woman.

Cotton State---a nickname for Alabama

The Cotton State has very little Gulf Coast shoreline.

couillon---(French) a moron, idiot, dumbass; pronounced "COOyone"

*Russell: I think I stepped in cow shit.
Monique: Couillon!*

cow chip throwing contest

couldn't carry a tune in a bucket---said of someone with absolutely no singing ability

The dogs start howlin' when Ellie starts singin'. She couldn't carry a tune in a bucket.

couldn't hit the broad side of a barn---an insult to someone who's a bad shot or a bad throw; one with bad aim

What makes you think the coach is gonna let you be the quarterback? You couldn't hit the broad side of a barn with a beach ball.

count one's blessings---to be thankful for something

I count my blessin's every day that I wasn't born a Yankee!

country bumpkin---a rural bred person, someone accustomed to life in the country

There's somethin' to be said for country bumpkins. They're not stressed out like us city folk.

country mile---a moderate distance

I haven't seen a house in a country mile.

cousin---any male to whom you are referring; not necessarily one's own cousin

Hey there, cousin. Could you give me directions to Birmingham?

cow chip---cow dung

This is open range, so watch out for cow chips.

cow chip throwing contest---a contest in which contestants throw cow dung for distance

I won \$100 in the cow chip throwin' contest last Saturday.

cow kiss

cow kiss---a very wet kiss;
to lick another's face

*I hate goin' to grandma's.
She always gives me cow
kisses.*

cow lick---a tuft of hair
that sticks up

*The other kids at school
pick on Jr. about his
cowlick.*

cow patty/pie---cow dung

*I smell something. Did you
step in a cow patty?*

cow poke---a cowboy,
country person, redneck
or the like

*Them cow pokes out there
at that dude ranch were
some mighty hospitable
people.*

cow sense---common sense,
good judgement

*She's a nice gal, but she
ain't got a lick of cow
sense.*

cow tippin'---a prank
involving the "pushing
over" of an unsuspecting
cow.

*Hey, y'all want to go cow
tippin' tonight?*

cow town---a town that
generates most of it's
income from cattle
ranching

*Amarillo has always been a
cow town.*

cracker---a derogatory
reference to a Caucasian
person; a poor white
Southern farmer

*(The use of this term is
often considered offensive.)*

cracklin' bread---corn bread made with ground pork skins (see “corn bread”)

Momma used to make cracklin' bread for special occasions.

crackin' a gut---laughing

I got detention for crackin' a gut in class today.

crack the window---to open the window partially

Hey man, crack that window. It's hot in here.

crawdad/ crawdaddy--- (see “crawfish”)

Otis is down at the bayou fishin' fer crawdads.

crawfish---1) a crayfish; a crustacean popularly eaten in the South

Crawfish are on sale down country market. Let's go get some and have a boil.

2) to break a promise, to change one's mind

You said I could borrow your car last week. You're not crawfishin' are ya?

crawfish boil---a get together where crawfish is boiled and eaten (see “crawfish”)

You goin' to the crawfish boil down at the beach this weekend?

Creole---a combination of Southern French and Black cultures

There's nothing quite like Creole cookin'.

crick---1) a creek

Me and sis are goin' fishin' down at the crick.

2) a sharp pain or stiffness

I've had a crick in my neck all week.

critter

critter---an animal or insect

Critters came into our campground and ate all our food.

crocodile tears---tears conjured for a deceitful purpose, “false” tears

Momma, I swear I didn’t hit her. Those are crocodile tears.

crooked as a rattler in a cactus patch---dishonest; deceitful

I wouldn’t trust him if I were you. He’s as crooked as a rattler in a cactus patch.

cue---short for “barbecue” (see “bar-B-Q”)

I’m havin’ a cue this weekend. Y’all come on over.

cup towel---a dish towel

Grab that cup towel and make yourself useful.

cuss---1) a difficult or annoying person

Don’t you talk back to me, you little cuss!

2) to curse

I won’t stand for no cussin’ in my house!

cut---to turn something on or off

Cut the light off, will ya? I’m trying to sleep.

cut a rug---to dance

C’mon, baby. Let’s go down to the ice house and cut a rug.

cut the tail off the dog---“get to the point”; to make a long story short

Cut the tail off the dog already. Can’t you see I’m in a hurry?

cutie pie---1) term of
endearment

*Hey cutie pie! What's
your name?*

2) a pretty girl

*How did someone as ugly
as you end up with a
cutie pie like her?*

cut out---to leave

*I'm gonna cut out early
today, if you don't mind.*

cut the light on---turn the
light on

*Cut the light on. You'll
ruin your eyes tryin' to
read in the dark.*

cuttin' up---talking or
laughing

*I got kicked out of school
for cuttin' up in class.*

cuz'---short for "cousin"
(see "cousin")

*Hey cuz'! What have you
been up to?*

~D~

Daddy---father; commonly used by Southern adults as well as children

Daddy called and asked me to come mow his yard.

Dadgummit---a mild expletive expressing contempt or annoyance

Dadgummit! I forgot to get milk while I was at the store.

Dagnabbit---
(see “Dadgummit”)

Dagnabbit, dog! Quit shittin’ on my floor.

Daisy Dukes---very short cut-off jeans; refers to Daisy Duke’s shorts in the tv show “The Dukes of Hazzard”

That gal draws plenty of attention when she wears her Daisy Dukes.

damnedest---1) best effort

I can’t dance, but I’ll try my damnedest.

2) strangest, most bewildering

I once caught a fish that looked like Elvis. It was the damnedest thing ya ever did see!

damn near---almost

I got bit by a snake once and it damn near killed me.

damn straight---
positively, absolutely

Damn straight, I shot him! That’s what he gets for breakin’ into my house.

Decoration day

damn Yankee---

(see “Yankee”)

This country would be a much better place if we could just get rid of all the damn Yankees!

dang---euphemism for “damn”

Dang it! I just can't seem to peel a tater without cuttin' myself.

Darlin'---1) “Darling”; a term of endearment;

Well, hello Darlin'! What brings you by?

2) adorable, cute, or
endearing

I saw the most darlin' little sun dress at the mall today!

darn tootin'---positively, absolutely, assuredly (see “damn straight”)

Jimmy: *Boy, it sure is hot.*
Brenda: *Darn tootin'!*

dat---a common pronunciation of “that”

Whar'd you get dat fancy new car?

dawg---a common pronunciation of “dog”

My dawg's expectin' pups any day now.

dawggonnit---mild expletive expressing contempt or annoyance

Dawggonnit! My favorite show's about to come on and the cable went out.

day-ed---pronunciation of “dead”

Someone shot Leroy in his hay-ed. Now he's day-ed.

Decoration day--- Memorial day

Most people don't have to work on Decoration day.

deef

deef---pronunciation
of “deaf”

*You'll have to speak up.
I'm deaf in one ear and
cain't hear out t'other.*

deer lease/deerwoods---
land leased for hunting

*We're goin' camping at the
deerwoods this weekend.*

Delta blues---a style of
blues music as opposed
to “Chicago” blues, for
example. Refers to the
Mississippi River Delta

*Robert Johnson is known as
“King of the Delta Blues”.*

dern---euphemism for
“damn”

*These dern mosquitoes
are about to drive me
plumb crazy.*

dern near---almost

*I fell asleep drivin' and
dern near wrecked my car.*

Devil is beatin' his wife---
said to be the cause of
rain on a sunny day

*I can't believe it's rainin'
on such a beautiful day!
The Devil must be beatin'
his wife!*

diddly (squat)---nothing

*The boys came back from
huntin' this mornin'. They
didn't get diddly-squat.*

differ'nt animal---a
strange or unrelated
object or situation

*I know a lot about history,
but quantum physics is a
whole differ'nt animal.*

dirt dauber---a wasp that builds its home by forming mud into tubes and chambers

I was climbin' around in the barn and got stung by a dirt dauber.

dis---a common pronunciation of "this"

I do believe dis is the best peach cobbler I've ever had.

ditty---a short, basic song

Pick up that guitar and play me a little ditty.

Dixie---the South

My Grandpa is comin' to visit. He's never been to Dixie.

Dixie cup---a small, disposable, paper cup

Mom, can I have some Dixie cups for my lemonade stand?

Dixieland---(see "Dixie")

I may travel the world, but Dixieland will always be home.

doesn't hold water---
(see "doesn't wash")

*You're four hours late!
The "busload of drowning babies" excuse doesn't hold water.*

doesn't wash--- doesn't work; doesn't withstand scrutiny

*Her story doesn't wash.
I think she did it!*

dogs---feet

I've been on my dogs all day. I need to sit down for a while.

dolled up

dolled up---well dressed,
well groomed

Missy spent \$100 gettin' dolled up for the dance.

done---already

I done ate supper, but I'm still hungry.

done did---already did

Chuck: Throw another log on the fire.

Russell: I done did!

Don't count your chickens before they're hatched.---
“Don't act prematurely.”;
“Don't rely on something yet unknown.”

He hasn't accepted your offer yet. Don't count your chickens before they're hatched.

Don't get your feathers ruffled.---“Don't get upset or angry.”

Now don't get your feathers ruffled. He wasn't insulting you. You just took it wrong.

Don't let the door hit you in the ass.---an insulting command for one to leave immediately

Ex-wife: Fine! I'm leaving!
Ex-husband: Good! Don't let the door hit you in the ass!

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.---“Don't look for fault in good fortune”

Buddy: I only got a 50 cent raise this year.
Jimmy: Well, don't look a gift horse in the mouth. That's 50 cents more than you were makin'.

don't make me no nevermind---“doesn't matter to me”

Ma: *Do you want peas or carrots with supper?*

Pa: *It don't make me no nevermind. Whatever you want.*

Don't piss on my back and tell me it's rainin'.---
“Don't lie to me.”
“Don't play me for a fool.”

You want me to believe it's snowin' in Miami? Don't piss on my back and tell me it's rainin'.

Don't put all your eggs in one basket.---“Leave yourself open to other possibilities.”; “Don't risk everything together.”

If you're gonna play the stock market, be sure not to put all your eggs in one basket.

Don't that beat all?---
“Isn't that outrageous?”

I can't believe he ate the whole pie! Don't that just beat all?!

doodle bug---a pill bug; a tiny insect with a segmented shell that can roll up into a ball in defense

When I was a kid, I used to catch doodle bugs in Granny's back yard.

dooger---a name for an object used in lieu of it's proper label

Hand me that dooger by your foot.

doohickey---(see “dooger”)

What do ya call that doohickey for opening wine bottles?

dope

<u>dope</u> ---a Coca-Cola or other carbonated beverage	<i>Will you fetch me a dope while you're up?</i>
<u>double dog dare</u> ---a final, insulting challenge to someone to do something	<i>I double dog dare you to to eat a tadpole!</i>
<u>Do what?</u> ---"What did you say?"; an expression of disbelief	Ma: <i>I won the lottery this mornin'!</i> Pa: <i>Do what?</i>
<u>down home</u> ---reminiscent of home or family	<i>It's been a long time since I've had real down home cookin'.</i>
<u>down in the mouth</u> ---depressed, upset	<i>You look down in the mouth. What's wrong?</i>
<u>down in the skillet</u> ---in the Texas panhandle	<i>I've got relatives down in the skillet.</i>
<u>downright</u> ---absolutely, very	<i>The weather is downright nasty today.</i>
<u>down to a gnat's ass</u> ---precisely, accurately	<i>I got that ol' Chevy tuned right down to a gnat's ass.</i>
<u>draw</u> ---a dry creek	<i>There's some sand dunes on the other side of the draw.</i>
<u>drawers</u> ---pants or underpants	<i>I went to the beach today and I've still got sand in my drawers.</i>

drawl---term used to describe the slow Southern manner of speech; the Southern accent

City folk tend to have less of a drawl than the country folk.

dressin' gown---a night gown

Granny doesn't do much anymore. She just sits around in her dressin' gown eatin' beef jerky.

drizzle---light, misty rain

The weather man said it might drizzle, but there won't be a storm.

drug---dragged

I drug that deer about a half a mile before I realized it weren't dead.

drunker than Cooter Brown---heavily intoxicated

Wilbur: Man, I tell you what, I was drunker than Cooter Brown last night!
Bubba: Yeah, so I've heard.

druthers---one's desires, wishes, wants

If I had my druthers, we'd be goin' to Disney World this summer.

dry spell---a period of time void of rain

My crops are gonna die if there don't come an end to this here dry spell.

duck fit---a crazed expression of anger; a temper tantrum

Mom threw a duck fit when I told her I scratched her car.

duds

duds---clothes, attire

Whar'd you get those spiffy duds?

duke---a clenched fist

Alright, you done pissed me off. Put up your dukes.

duke it out---to fight with one's fists

I'm tired of listenin' to y'all argue. Why don't y'all just duke it out?

dumplin's---balls of dough boiled in a thick stew, or filled with fruit or meat, i.e. chicken dumplin's, squirrel dumplin's, apple dumplin's

Grandma always makes squirrel dumplin's when we come to visit.

durn---euphemism for "damn"

These durn mosquitoes are drivin' me nuts!

dust devil---a whirlwind full of dust

I got caught in a dust devil out in the parkin' lot.

~E~

eatin' high on the hog---
successful; prosperous

I've been eatin' high on the hog ever since I got this new job.

eatin's---food

Crawfish and bar-B-Q is what I call good eatin's.

eat up---command for one to eat

Y'all eat up now. There's plenty of food for everybody to have a second helpin'.

egg on---to incite; to instigate; to pressure someone to do something

No matter how much your brothers egg you on, you shouldn't do the stupid things they tell you to do.

enough to choke a horse---a large quantity

That woman wears enough makeup to choke a horse.

enough to make a preacher lay his bible down---enough to incite anyone to violence

Poor Willie caught his ol' lady in bed with his best friend. That's enough to make a preacher lay his bible down.

enough to wear the horns off a billy goat---enough to irritate or annoy excessively

Damn, kid, you talk enough to wear the horns off a billy goat!

-est

-est---suffix often used
improperly to add
extra emphasis

*That is the talkinest woman
I've ever met. She just
never shuts up!*

et---eaten, ate

Vern: *Have you et yet?*
Bubba: *Yep, I et too much.*

étouffèè---a Cajun stew
of shellfish or chicken
served over rice

*There's this restaurant on
Bourbon street that has
the absolute best étouffèè.*

evenin'---“evening”;
often used instead
of “afternoon”

*I cain't go nowhere 'til Pa
gets home and he don't get
off work 'til 2'o'clock this
evenin'.*

ever'---every

*Ever' time I go to the beach
I get stung by a jellyfish.*

ever did see---
have ever seen

*She was the purtiest woman
I ever did see.*

ever'where's---
“everywhere”

*I don't know where it could
be. I looked ever'where's.*

**everwhichway/
everywhichaways**---
in every direction

*She throwed a handful of
firecrackers in the fire
and people went runnin'
everwhichaways.*

~F~

fair to middling---average;
mediocre

Travis: *Hey Liz. How are you doin'?*

Elizabeth: *Fair to middlin', I reckon.*

falling out---a dispute
or argument resulting
in the termination of
a relationship

We had a fallin' out about three years back and I ain't spoke to her since.

fancy---1) to prefer, desire

I kinda fancy a steak for supper.

2) to have amorous
feelings for

Maybe you should call her. I think she kinda fancies you.

3) of exceptional quality

Aunt Bernice is comin' for dinner. We'd better break out the fancy silverware.

far---a common
pronunciation of "fire"

My house caught on far and I lost everything I owned.

fast time---daylight
savings time

Man, I just can't seem to get used to this fast time.

fat back---salt pork

You hungry? I've got some fat back left over from the Bar-B-Q.

fat, dumb, and happy

fat, dumb, and happy---

blissfully unaware;
ignorant

Aunt Mildred was always too fat, dumb, and happy to catch the young'uns in the cookie jar.

faubourg---(Cajun) a suburb, neighborhood

There ain't no crime in my faubourg.

favor---to resemble

I think I look like my Dad, but most people tell me I favor my mother.

fed up---disgruntled to an extreme degree

It's only April and I'm already fed up with the heat this year.

feisty---playful, hyper, ornery

The cat sure is feisty today. Did somebody give her some catnip?

feller---fellow; a male person

Defendant: I swear I've never seen that feller before in my life!

fell outta the ugly tree (and hit every branch on the way down)--- denotes that person being spoken of is extremely physically unattractive

She's a wonderful girl, but she has a hard time gettin' a date on account of she fell outta the ugly tree and hit every branch on the way down.

fer---for

What'd ya go an' do that fer?

fer/fur piece---

a moderate distance

Bubba: *You wanna walk down to the creek?*

Cletus: *The creek's a fer piece up the road. Let's take the four-wheelers.*

fess up---confess,

tell the truth

I think Leroy did it, but he'd never fess up in a million years.

fetch---to retrieve;

command to retrieve

Can you fetch me a soda while you're up?

fetchin'---attractive;

beautiful

Well, hello Missy. You look quite fetchin' tonight.

fib---a lie

You're not tellin' me a fib, are you?

fiddle---a violin

Man, that feller could play the fiddle like it was nobody's business.

fiddle fart---to procrastinate

or waste time

Quit fiddle fartin' around. We're gonna be late!

fiddlesticks---1) a mild

expletive expressing frustration

Oh fiddlesticks! I left my grocery list at the house.

2) a mild expletive expressing disbelief

Bonnie: *I won the lottery.*
Clyde: *Oh fiddlesticks! You did not!*

fidget---to move nervously

or sporadically; to manipulate unnecessarily

How am I supposed to cut your hair if you won't quit fidgetin'?

figger

figger---pronunciation of “figure”; to calculate, to understand

The way I figger it, you owe me five hundred dollars!

fightin’ words---statement(s) that could incite someone to violence

Jethro: *Your woman’s lookin’ pretty good.*
Cletus: *Watch it! Them’s fightin’ words!*

filé---powdered sassafras leaves; used to thicken gumbo

Boudreaux, run down to the store and get me some more filé.

fine and dandy---1) in a perfect state; well and good

Bessie Mae: *How’s your wife and kids?*
Billy Bob: *They’re just as fine and dandy as they can be!*

2) irrelevant; beside the point

Son: *Can I go fishin’?*
Pa: *No. You’re grounded.*
Son: *But I finished my homework.*
Pa: *Well that’s fine and dandy, but you’re still grounded.*

finnin’ to---(see “fixin’ to”)

I’m finnin’ to go to the store. Do you need anything?

fire up---to start, to turn on

Go out and fire up the four-wheeler. We need to go haul some wood.

fired up---1) excited

The concert's tonight. I'm fired up and ready to go.

2) angry

Don't go near mom. She's all fired up about somethin'.

fish fry---a gathering where fish is cooked and eaten

Gus is havin' a fish fry this weekend at his house.

fishin' pole---a fishing rod; a rod and reel

Go grab your fishin' pole and meet me down at the river.

fisticuffs---a fight; fighting for sport

The argument between Willie and Joe went on for days and, in the end, came down to fisticuffs.

fittin'---appropriate

It ain't fittin' fer a lady to sit spread-eagle.

fit to be tied---very angry or upset

Bubba lost his job last Friday and he's still fit to be tied.

fixed---spayed or neutered in reference to cats and dogs

I have to get my dog fixed next weekend.

fixin's---condiments; the various ingredients of a meal

Looks like we've got all the fixin's for a damn fine Bar-B-Q.

fixin' to

fixin' to---the state of
almost being ready;
planning to; about to

Mom: *Go clean your room!*
Son: *I'm fixin' to.*

fix one's red wagon---
to punish or get even

Poachin' on my land, is he?
I'll fix his red wagon.

flat out---absolutely;
without reason; adds
emphasis to what is
being stated

*I'm sorry I missed your
birthday. I just flat out
forgot.*

flustered---frustrated,
upset

*When Mary lost the beauty
pageant, she got so
flustered she cried.*

fly off the handle---
to become angry or
enraged

*Momma flew off the handle
when she caught me
colorin' on the wall.*

folks---1) parents

*I can't go out tonight. My
folks are comin' to town.*

2) people

*How are you folks doin'
this evenin'?*

follow---to understand

*I'll meet you in front of the
airport at 9:30. You follow
me?*

for certain/for sure---
certainly, surely

*I'm gonna fail economics
for sure.*

for to---in order to

*I have to get up early
for to make it to work
on time.*

full of piss and vinegar

for true---surely, definitely,
really

*Do you really love me for
true?*

four-lane---a highway

*Better yet, I'll meet you
at the corner of Airport
Boulevard and the
four-lane.*

French Quarter---the
most famous area of
New Orleans, known for
it's history, architecture,
music, and nightlife

*You'd have to be dead to
not have a good time in
the French Quarter.*

fret---to worry

*Don't fret Momma. I'll be
careful crossin' the road.*

Friday week---one week
from the next Friday
(used with any day of
the week)

*I have a meeting with the
President Friday week.*

fritter---batter fried fruit
or meat

*Every Sunday, Dad goes to
the donut shop to get apple
fritters.*

frog sticker---a pocket
knife

*Grandpa can sit on the
porch for hours, whittlin'
away with his frog sticker.*

from the getgo---from
the beginning

*That presentation was
doomed from the getgo.*

full of piss and vinegar---
exhibiting youthful
exuberance and vigor

*When I was young, and full
of piss and vinegar, I wasn't
afraid of nothin'.*

full up

full up---full

*I'm all full up on pecan pie.
I couldn't eat another bite.*

funnin'---joking

*Don't take it personally.
I was only funnin'.*

funny-haha---humorous,
comical; used in
conjunction with
“funny peculiar”

*Do you mean funny-haha
or funny-peculiar?*

funny-peculiar---strange
or homosexual

*I mean he's funny-peculiar.
That boy's as queer as a
three dollar bill.*

further---farther

*I walked further today
than I ever have in my
life.*

fuss---1) to complain

What are you fussin' about?

2) to scold

*Mom's been fussin' at me
all mornin'.*

fuss and feathers---said
of someone making a
big deal of nothing

*Don't pay him no mind.
He's all fuss and feathers.*

fuss bucket---a cranky or
complaining person,
usually a child

*Well aren't you just a little
fuss bucket! Maybe you
need a nap.*

~G~

gal---girl

The prettiest gal I've ever met was a Texan.

galley---porch

I enjoy my Sundays sittin' on the galley drinkin' lemonade.

galley nipper---a mosquito

I'm goin' inside. These damn galley nippers are drivin' me nuts!

gallivantin'---wandering around

Betty: *Have you seen Bubba lately?*

Alice: *He's probably just off gallivantin' around somewhere. He'll turn up.*

galoot---a fool

I wonder if that galoot knows he's about to walk into traffic.

gander---to look

Take a gander at the size of that watermelon.

gator---an alligator

I found a gator in my backyard once when I lived in Florida.

geed when one should have hawed

geed when one should

have hawed---“gee”

and “haw” are verbal commands for a horse or mule to turn right or left respectively. This is said of someone who did the opposite of what he/she should have done, to a negative effect

I told him not to gamble his last dollar away, but he didn't listen. He went ahead and geed when he should have hawed.

geetar---a common

pronunciation of “guitar”

Why don't you pick up that geetar and play me a tune.

genteel---refined, well

mannered

Rarely do I meet a man as genteel as yourself.

Georgia credit card---a

short length of hose used to siphon gasoline out of a vehicle

I don't have a gas can, but I keeps a Georgia credit card in the back of my pickup.

Georgia ice cream---grits

I can make a meal out of Georgia ice cream alone.

get/git---command for

someone or something to go away

Git! Stay out of my flowerbed! Damn it, I said git!

get after it---command to

hurry; to commence doing something

Boy, I told you to mow the yard. Now get after it!

get a move on---

(see “get after it”)

Get up and get ready for school. Get a move on!

get back to one's rat

killin'---to resume what one was previously doing

Well, that's enough chit chat. I need to get back to my rat killin'.

get glad in the same pants

one got mad in---to get over that which made one angry; used sarcastically to mean "tough, that's the way it is"

She's mad at me for not callin' last night, but she can just get glad in the same pants she got mad in.

get gone---to leave

Hurry up! We gotta get gone already.

**Getonattaheaw!/
Gitownaddahair!**---

pronunciations of "Get on out of here!"; command for an animal, usually a dog, to go away

I thought I told you to git! Now gitownaddahair!

get one's duck's in a

row---to prepare; to plan ahead

You better get all your ducks in a row before you retire.

get one's ears lowered---

to get a haircut

Ma took me down to the barber shop to get my ears lowered.

get the hell out of dodge---

to leave in a hurry

If we don't get the hell out of dodge, we'll never make it by morning.

gettin' into it---fighting, arguing

I didn't get a wink of sleep. The couple upstairs were gettin' into it all night.

get together

get together---a social gathering

We're havin' a get together at my house next weekend.

get up---clothes, uniform, outfit, costume

You look mighty silly in that get up!

giddyup---command for a horse to move forward

Damn horse! When I say "giddyup", I mean GIDDYUP!

gig---a wooden pole with a sharp spike or hook on one end used to catch frogs or fish

Go fetch a couple of gigs and meet me down by the pond.

giggin'---the act of hunting frogs or fish with a gig (see "gig")

I hope you like frog legs 'cause I'm goin' giggin' tonight.

gimme a holler---"call me", "keep in touch"

Gimme a holler when you get to town.

gist---the premise, the central theme

Yeah, I get the gist, and I'm still not interested.

gitfiddle---a guitar

I once played a gitfiddle owned by Stevie Ray Vaughn.

give out---to become exhausted, to give up, to collapse

I gotta sit down. I think My legs are about to give out.

give someone the what for---to punish, to lecture, to attack

Pa's down at city hall givin' 'em the what for again.

goin' to hell in a hand basket

God almighty!---a general exclamation

God almighty, it's hot in here!

God-awful---distasteful, bad, of poor quality

That was the most God-awful movie I've ever seen.

God bless (it)---euphemism for "God damn"; mild expletive expressing contempt or annoyance

God bless it! I forgot I had a pie in the oven!

God-fearin'---religious, believing in Christian virtues

Any normal God-fearin' man would never do such a thing.

God's country---any exceptionally beautiful geographic area

The Mississippi river is God's country to a river boat captain.

God willin' and the creek don't rise---if everything goes as planned

I should be able to afford that boat by June, God willin' and the creek don't rise!

goin' ninety to nothin'---exercising haste; doing something with great energy, enthusiasm, or persistence

You kids need to come in and take a nap. You've been goin' ninety to nothin' all morning.

goin' to hell in a hand basket---leading a life of sin; committing a sinful act; usually used in a jovial sense

I may be goin' to hell in a hand basket, but I sure am enjoying myself.

goan

goan---a pronunciation of
“going to”

*Cryin’ about it ain’t goan
help none.*

goangit---1) going to get

*Yer goangit sick if you
don’t come in and put a
jacket on.*

2) command for one to
locate and retrieve
something

*Martha, goangit me my
shootin’ iron.*

goin’ to town---doing
something with much
enthusiasm or haste;
indulging in something
wholeheartedly

*I came home and caught
my dogs goin’ to town
chewin’ up the furniture.*

gonna---going to

*Hurry up! I’m not gonna
wait forever.*

go-oan (go on)---command
to go away, usually
directed towards a pet

*Go-oan, dawg! I’ll play
with you later.*

goober digger/grabber---
a poor country person

*I done told you I don’t want
you marryin’ no goddamn
goober grabber!*

goober (pea)---a peanut

*Damn woman! How many
boxes of them goobers are
you gonna eat?*

good God almighty!---
(see “God all mighty”)

*Good God almighty that
sho’ smells good! Watcha
cookin’?*

good Lord!--- a common
general exclamation

*Good Lord, Ben! That was
the dumbest joke I've ever
heard.*

goodness gracious (alive)---
a polite exclamation

*Goodness gracious alive!
It's rainin' cats and dogs!*

good ol' boy---a beer
drinkin', truck drivin',
fly fishin', fist fightin',
gun totin', resourceful,
helpful, good-natured,
Southern male

*Any time you're stuck in
the mud, you can count
on Willie to help pull you
out. He's a good ol' boy.*

good people---person(s) of
exceptional character

*James is the kind of guy
who'll help you move. He's
good people.*

go off half cocked---to act
hastily without weighing
the consequences,
especially while angry

*Don't go off half cocked!
You'll only make it worse.*

gopher---an errand boy,
someone who performs
odd jobs

*I hired a gopher for six
bucks an hour.*

goshdawgit---a mild
expletive expressing
contempt or annoyance

*Goshdawgit! I meant to turn
left back there.*

goshdernit---
(see "goshdawgit")

*Goshdernit! I just can't
seem to find my glasses.*

gospel truth

gospel truth---the absolute truth; absolutely correct

Pa: *That boy's so dumb, he couldn't find his own ass with a mirror and a map!*
Ma: *Ain't that the gospel truth!*

go to shit---to deteriorate; to go bad

If you don't start studyin' more, your grades are gonna go to shit!

gotsda/gotsto---
pronunciation of "got to",
meaning "have or need to"

I gotsda get me one of those ridin' lawnmowers. I just gotsda!

got to---began; commenced

We got to talkin' and plum lost track of time.

gracious---(Spanish) thank you

You've been a great host. Gracious!

granddaddy---grandfather

My granddaddy always brings me candy when he comes to visit.

grand baby---grandchild

She's got four grandbabies in Texas and two more in Louisiana.

Granny---Grandmother

We're havin' Christmas at Granny's house this year.

grassy ass---humorous
pronunciation of Spanish
"gracious", thank you
(see "gracious")

John: *Here, have a drink.*
Clint: *Why grassy ass! Don't mind if I do.*

green---inexperienced,
naïve

*The new guy doesn't know
his ass from a hole in the
ground. He's as green as
they come.*

green beans---string beans

*Granny used to grow green
beans in her back yard.*

greens---green vegetables

*Momma always used to
make me eat my greens.*

**grinnin' like a possum
eatin' persimmons**---
a toothy grin or smile

*You sure are grinnin' like a
possum eatin' persimmons.
What's so funny?*

gris gris---a voodoo spell
or an item used to ward
off such spells;
pronounced "gree gree"

*I always keep a gris gris
bag under my pillow for
good luck.*

grit---a redneck

*If it comes down to a fight,
I want the grits on my side.*

grits---ground, boiled corn

*Dad loves grits, but I can't
stand 'em.*

**grounds for an ass
whippin'**---reason for
physical punishment
(see "ass whippin")

*Badmouthin' my mother
is definite grounds for an
ass whippin'.*

growed---grew

*I growed up in a little town
in Southern Alabama.*

growin' like a weed

growin' like a weed---

growing very fast

You are just a growin' like a weed. I almost didn't recognize you.

grub---

food

What a long day! I'm ready for some grub and a shower.

guaran-damn-tee-ya---

guarantee you

I guaran-damn-tee-ya it's gonna rain tomorrow!

gubment---

common
pronunciation of
"government"

Damn gubment's always got it's hands in my wallet.

gulch---

a narrow canyon
created by rain run-off

Pa! Get the truck. I shot a deer on the other side of the gulch.

Gullah---

a Southern dialect
originating with black
slaves from Africa;
a combination of African
and English words

Damn it! You know I can't understand you when you start speakin' that Gullah!

gully---

(see "gulch")

I can't cross the gully in my truck. It's too deep.

gully washer---

a heavy rain

That last gully washer flooded our house.

gumbo---

thick soup
containing okra, rice,
seafood, and file powder
(ground sassafras leaves)

PaPa used to make the best gumbo.

gumption---ability, gall,
sense, nerve, guts

*Whar'd you get the
gumption to ask for a
raise?*

gunshot house---a long,
straight house with doors
on both ends, such as to
allow a straight "shot"
through the house without
interference by any walls

*We finally sold that ol'
gunshot house on the
far end of our property.*

gussied up---well dressed,
well groomed

*What are you all gussied
up for? Got a date?*

gut---stomach

*She punched me in the gut
so hard it knocked the wind
out of me.*

gwine/gwyne---
a pronunciation of
"going (to)"

*I'm gwine to the corner
store for some bread. Do
you need anything?*

~H~

hacked off---angry

What are you hacked off about?

hair-trigger---a short temper

Be careful around the boss. He's got a hair-trigger today.

half a mind to--- a strong inclination to

I've got half a mind to pack my bags and hit the road.

hankerin'---hunger, desire

I've got a hankerin' fer some crawfish.

hard road---paved road

I wrecked my bike out on the hard road and skinned myself all up.

hard row to hoe---a difficult situation or endeavor

Missy got pregnant at sixteen. You know that's a hard row to hoe.

harp---a harmonica

I tell ya, I've never seen anyone blow a harp quite like that.

harrowing experience--- a frightful event

I got chewed up by a dog when I was young. It was a harrowing experience.

haul ass---to hurry or leave; command for one to hurry or leave

If you don't haul ass you're gonna be late.

hellfire and damnation

hauled off---suddenly
commenced to do
something

*I thought it was over, but
then one guy hauled off and
hit the other guy in the face.*

Have a good one---request
that one have a good day

*I'll talk to you later. Have
a good one!*

have at it---to partake of
something

*Supper is ready. Y'all have
at it.*

Hawt---“Heart”;
a term of endearment

*Come here Hawt, and hug
your Momma's neck.*

hay-ed---pronunciation
of “head”

*Poor Timmy. He ain't right
in the hay-ed.*

head honcho---the person
in charge

*I'd like to speak to the head
honcho. I have a complaint.*

heap---a large quantity

I am in a heap of trouble.

heared---heard

*Shhhhhh. I heared a noise
downstairs.*

hear tell---to hear talk of

*I hear tell the sheriff's
a lookin' fer ya.*

heebie jeebies---the frights,
the chills, the creeps

*Scary movies give her the
heebie jeebies.*

hellacious---extraordinary

*Boy, I had one hellacious
hangover this morning!*

hellfire and damnation---
an expletive expressing
contempt or annoyance

*What in hellfire and
damnation is goin' on?*

hell raisin'

hellraisin'---(see "raisin'
hell" 2nd definition)

*I just got paid and my
wife's out of town. I'm
lookin' forward to a night
of hellraisin'.*

hemmin' 'n' hawin'---
"bowing up" in a
confrontation; fighting

*You boys knock off that
hemmin' 'n' hawin' afore
I whup both yer asses!*

here shortly---in a little
while

*We're goin' out to eat,
here shortly.*

hern---hers

*They've got a set of his and
hern towels.*

hesh/hush up---command
for one to be quiet or
stop talking

*Hesh up! I can't hear the
TV!*

het up---angry

*Ma's all het up 'cause Pa
forgot her birthday.*

hey---"hello"; a common
greeting

*Hey, Bubba! How are you
doing?*

hick---one bred in the
country, one accustomed
to life in the country;
implies ignorance or
low social standing

*We don't see too many
hicks down here in the
city.*

hidy/haddy---pronunciation
of "howdy"; hello
(see "howdy")

*Hidy, ma'am. Pleasure to
meet your acquaintance.*

hitch in one's get-a-long

high strung---hyperactive
to a fault

*She's high strung, but she
gets more work done than
any of the other employees.*

hightail it---to hurry;
command for one to
hurry

*We best high-tail it if we're
gonna catch the 9:00 movie.*

high time--- untimely, but
not too late; about time

*Well it's about high time
you came home! I was
worried sick.*

hillbilly---a rural bred
Southerner, one
accustomed to life in
the country; implies
slow mentality

*I gave my life to this
company only to end up
takin' orders from the
boss' hillbilly nephew.*

hiney---one's backside;
buttocks

*I see your hiney, all bright
and shiny. You better hide it
before I bite it.*

hisself---himself

*He's been full of hissself
since the day he discovered
mirrors.*

hissy fit---expression of
anger, a temper tantrum

*Don't mind her. She has a
hissy fit every time she
doesn't get her way.*

hitch in one's get-a-long---
a hindering ailment

*Granny said she can't
come. She's got a hitch
in her get-a-long.*

hit the hay

hit the hay---to go to bed

I'm gonna hit the hay so I can get up early tomorrow.

hit the road---to leave;
command for one to
leave

We're gonna be late if we don't hit the road now.

hit the trail---(see "hit the road")

You'd better hit the trail before it starts rainin'.

hoe-down---a dance or party

We're havin' a hoe-down at my house next Friday.

hog heaven---a state of euphoria

Granny baked five pies today. I feel like I'm in hog heaven.

hogwash---nonsense

That story sounds like hogwash to me.

hog wild---crazy; out of control; with much enthusiasm

Pa said he was gonna clean the garage, but he went hog wild and cleaned the whole house.

hold your horses---
command for one to
wait or calm down

I know you're anxious, but just hold your horses. We'll go in a minute.

holler---1) to yell, shout

Quit hollerin'. I hear you loud and clear.

2) a hollow; a narrow valley

Ol' man Jefferson lives by himself down in the holler.

3) notify, contact

Holler at me when you get done with your chores.

<u>hollerin' like a stuck pig</u> --- screaming loudly and erratically	<i>You are such a sissy! That dentist barely touched your tooth and you started hollerin' like a stuck pig.</i>
<u>hominy</u> ---(see “grits”)	<i>My dad loves hominy but I think it's disgusting.</i>
<u>honest injun</u> ---a declaration of honesty or sincerity	<i>I swear I didn't do it. Honest injun!</i>
<u>Honey</u> ---a term of endearment usually reserved for a spouse or sometimes children	<i>Hi, Honey. Whatcha got cookin' fer supper?</i>
<u>Honeychild</u> ---a term of endearment; used more casually than “Honey”	<i>Ooh, Honeychild, is that not the most gorgeous sunset ya ever did see?</i>
<u>hongry</u> ---a common pronunciation of “hungry”	<i>I hope y'all got dinner ready 'cause I shore am hongry!</i>
<u>honky tonk</u> ---1) a style of music emphasizing rolling, bluesy piano	<i>My PaPa was a piano player in a honky tonk band.</i>
2) an upbeat nightclub catering to the honky tonk style of music	<i>They played every honky tonk from here to Beaumont.</i>
<u>hoodoo</u> ---a voodoo spirit; an embodiment of bad luck	<i>I keep my lucky rabbit's foot by my bed to ward off the hoodoos.</i>

hoofin' it

hoofin' it---traveling on
foot

*I reckon I'll be hoofin' it
'til my pickup gets outta the
shop.*

hoot---an amusing person,
thing, or event

*My grandpa's a hoot when
he's been drinkin'.*

hootenanny---a party;
a celebration

*Sounds like they're havin' a
hootenanny next door.*

hooters---breasts

*That gal's got the nicest set
of hooters I ever did see!*

hootin' 'n' hollerin'---
yelling; celebrating loudly
causing a scene

*It's after midnight! Knock
off the hootin' 'n' hollerin'
before someone calls the
police!*

hop to it---a command for
one to immediately
commence doing
something

*I want you to clean your
room, take out the trash,
and wash the car. What are
you waitin' for? Hop to it.*

hornswoggled---cheated,
deceived

*They made off with my
wallet and my whiskey. I've
been hornswoggled again!*

horny toad---a lizard with
pointed "horns" covering
it's body

*We used to catch horny
toads out in front of
Grandma's house in the
backwoods.*

horse of another color---
a separate issue, an
unrelated matter

*Yeah, I'm still mad at
Bubba, but that's a horse of
another color.*

horsepiddle---a humorous pronunciation of “hospital”

I think I'm goin' into labor. Maybe we should mosey on down to the horse piddle.

horse pill---a large pill

The doctor's got me takin' these damn horse pills again.

horseplay---playing rough or recklessly

No horseplay in the shop! Somebody's gonna get hurt.

horse shit---1) a bad situation

This is horse shit! My ex-wife is suin' me!

2) expletive expressing disbelief

Skeeter: I got me a date with Morgan Fairchild.

Ennis: Oh, horse shit! You couldn't get a date from a calendar.

horse's patoot(y)---euphemism for “horse's ass” or “asshole”

You can be a real horse's patoot when you want to be.

horsin' around---playing wildly or recklessly

Y'all quit horsin' around before you break something.

hoss---1) pronunciation of “horse”

Thunder was the prettiest hoss I ever did see.

2) derogatory reference to a “tough guy” or a clumsy person

Easy hoss. Don't get yer feathers ruffled.

hot hot

hot hot---“hotter than hot”;
extremely hot

Boy, it is hot hot outside today!

hot toddy---a hot drink
usually made with water,
whiskey, and sugar or
honey

Boy it's cold outside! This is good hot toddy weather.

house nigger---an old term
for a plantation slave who
worked in the house as
opposed to the field; may
be considered offensive

Billy Boy: Could you get me a soda?

Bessie Mae: I ain't your house nigger!

How 'bout them apples?---
“How do you like that?”

Oh yeah? Well you're grounded 'til your next report card. How 'bout them apples?

How come?---“Why?”

Pa: We can't go fishin' this weekend.

Son: How come?

Pa: 'Cause there's a storm a comin'.

How do?---“How do you
do?”, greetings

How do, stranger?

Howdy---common greeting
“How do you do?”;
“Hello”

Howdy, Ma'am. Nice day, isn't it?

hug my neck---“give me
a hug”

I'mone spank your behind if you don't come here and hug my neck!

hush your mouth

hunker down---command
for one to squat or kneel

*This looks like a good place
to hunt. Now hunker down
and be still.*

hunnerd---pronunciation
of “hundred”

*The place you’re lookin’
for is about a hunnerd
miles up the road.*

huntin’ snipe---searching
for something that
cannot be found;
attempting something
futile (see also “snipe
huntin’”)

*I’ve looked everywhere for
my keys. I feel like I’m
huntin’ snipe.*

hurricane party---a party
or gathering for the
purpose of enduring
a hurricane in good
company

*We’re having a hurricane
party at my house. Hurry
before the streets flood.*

hush my mouth---
a general exclamation

*Well, hush my mouth! I
ain’t seen you in years!*

hush puppy---a ball of
fried corn meal

*Would you like French
fries or hush puppies with
your fish?*

hush your mouth---
command for one to
cease talking

*Hush your mouth before
you say somethin’ you’ll
regret.*

~I~

ice house---a small bar

You can always find Pa down at Millie's ice-house.

I don't mind if I do---

expression of acceptance

Clarence: *Would you like some ice cold lemonade?*
William: *I don't mind if I do.*

iffen---if

Iffen you look real hard, you just might see a shootin' star.

If it was a snake it would

have bit you!---expression

used when one locates something that was in close proximity throughout the search

Sister: *I can't find my hat.*
Brother: *It's on your head. If it was a snake, it would have bit you!*

if you play your cards

right---if you do what

you're supposed to do;
if you do the right thing;
if you make wise decisions

If you play your cards right, maybe your boss will give you a good raise.

I hear ya---"I understand"

Bill: *My wife's always naggin' me. I can't get any peace.*

Dave: *I hear ya, man. My wife's the same way.*

I'll be a monkey's uncle---
polite version of "I'll be
damned"

*Well, I'll be a monkey's
uncle. I can't believe this
ol' car started up on the
very first try.*

I'll be damned---a general
expression/exclamation
(see "Well, I'll be")

*I'll be damned! Look at all
the stars in that country
sky!*

I'll be dog (gone)---
polite version of "I'll be
damned"

*Well I'll be dog! Don't you
just look beautiful!*

I'll be jiggers---polite
version of "I'll be
damned"

*Well I'll be jiggers! If it
isn't ol' Leroy Brown.
How have you been?*

I mean to tell you---
(see "I'm tellin' you")

Willard: *Damn, it's hot!*
Bubba: *Boy, I mean to tell
ya! I ain't felt heat like this
in years.*

I'mone---pronunciation of
"I'm going to"

*I'mone get up 'bout six
and go fishin' out at
Millard's pond.*

I'm tellin' you---
expression of agreement

Brother: *Nothin' beats
Momma's cookin'!*
Sister: *Oh, I'm tellin' you!*

I, myself---a common
redundance

*I, myself, prefer beef over
pork.*

in back of---behind

*We buried that dead bird in
back of the barn.*

in cahoots

in cahoots---in partnership,
in league, conspiring

*I think my wife's in cahoots
with the devil.*

**in front of God and
everybody**---within view
of others; in public

*Look at those two, makin'
out in front of God and
everybody. How lude!*

Injun---pronunciation of
“Indian”

*You kids go outside to play
cowboys and Injuns.*

ink pen---writing utensil
using ink, a pen

*Could you hand me that ink
pen over yonder?*

iota---a small quantity of
something

*The Lord didn't give you
one iota of good sense,
did He?*

ire---pronunciation
of “hour”

*Sucker: How long will it
take to fix my car?
Mechanic: 'Bout an ire.*

I reckon---“I'll allow it”;
I agree; o.k.

*Son: Can I go over to
Bubba's house?
Ma: Well, I reckon, but be
home for supper.*

I's---1) I am

*I's goin' to the store.
Anybody need anything?*

2) I was

*I's about five years old
when I got kicked by that
horse.*

iss 'ere---this here

*Iss 'ere is the best pie I've
ever had in my whole life.*

It's not the size of the dog in the fight...

I tell you what---

expression used to add
emphasis to a statement

*I tell you what, I haven't
had this much fun in
years!*

It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog!---

"It is will, not might, that
matters"

Son: *He'll kill me, Pa.
He's twice my size.*

Pa: *Remember, it's not the
size of the dog in the fight,
it's the size of the fight in
the dog!*

~J~

jabberin'---talking incessantly

Will you quit jabberin' at me? I'm tryin' to watch t.v..

jambalaya---a spicy Cajun stew served over rice

No more jambalaya for me. I'm stuffed!

jamboree---a large, lively celebration involving music

We're goin' to the annual bluegrass jamboree next weekend.

jazz---a style of music native to the South, generally said to have been born in New Orleans by black musicians; was once considered "the devil's music"

I spent four years playin' the sax in a jazz band on Bourbon Street.

jerky---dried, cured meat

My dad makes the best jerky this side of the Pecos.

jibber jabber---meaningless "chit chat"

I don't see how them dang women can sit on the phone jibber jabberin' away all day long.

jig---a lively dance

I'm so happy, I could dance a jig.

jigaboo---a derogatory reference to an African-American

(The use of this term is often considered offensive.)

just because a chicken has wings...

jim dandy---of good
quality

*That's a jim dandy idea you
have. Can I get in on it?*

jimmy---1) a penis

*She accidentally kicked me
in my jimmy.*

2) to disengage

*I locked my keys in the
house. Can you jimmy the
lock for me?*

John Deere letter---a

Dear John letter; a letter
for the purpose
of terminating a
relationship

*I came home from work one
day and found a John Deere
letter. I haven't seen her
since.*

Johnny Reb---a nickname
for a Southerner

*Johnny Reb ain't got no
place in his heart for no
damn Yankee!*

joshin'---kidding, joking

*Aw, don't get mad. I was
only joshin'.*

June bug---a small, brown,
flying beetle flourishing
in the summertime

Son: *There's a June bug in
my room again.*

Dad: *It won't hurt you. Just
go to sleep.*

just about enough---more
than enough; more than
one can tolerate

*I've had just about enough
of this hot, muggy weather.*

**just because a chicken
has wings don't mean
it can fly**---appearances
can be deceiving

*Yeah, she's purty alright,
but just because a chicken
has wings don't mean it can
fly!*

just fell off the turnip truck

just fell off the turnip
truck---insinuates that
someone is ignorant
naïve

*He breaks everything he
touches. I think he just
fell off the turnip truck.*

just for shits and grins---
just for the fun or thrill
of it

*You wanna camp out in the
back yard just for shits and
grins?*

~K~

keel---common
pronunciation of “kill”

*I'mone keel you iffen
you don't stay off my
land!*

keel over---1) to die

*One minute Grandpa was
tellin' a story, and the next
minute, he just keeled over.*

2) to pass out, to fall over

*I don't think you need
any more beer. You're
about to keel over as it is.*

keen---pleasing to the eye,
of high quality

*That's a keen lookin' bike
you got there.*

keeper---a fish of legal
length, worth keeping

*I caught a couple of keepers
last weekend, but I haven't
had any luck so far today.*

keep your britches on---
“be patient”

*Supper will be ready in a
minute. Keep your britches
on!*

keep your eyes peeled---
keep watch, pay attention

*If you keep your eyes
peeled, you might see a
shootin' star.*

Kentucky Derby---
a horse race held in
Louisville, Kentucky

*Ol' Sugarfoot placed third
in last year's Kentucky
Derby.*

Key lime pie

Key lime pie---a lime pie,
named after the limes
grown in the Florida Keys

*What would you like for
desert, ice cream or Key
lime pie?*

kicker bar---a country
and western bar or
dancehall

*Last thing I remember,
we were drinkin' at some
kicker bar. How I ended
up in jail, I do not know.*

kilt---a common
pronunciation of
"killed"

*My boy kilt his first deer
last weekend.*

kin---relative(s); related

*I don't get along with
most of my kin.*

kinfolk---relatives

*I've got kinfolk comin'
down from Tennessee this
weekend.*

kissin' cousins---distant
blood relatives

*I haven't seen my kissin'
cousins since we were kids.*

Kiss my grits!---

1) a general exclamation

*Well kiss my grits! I ain't
seen you in a coon's age.*

2) a euphemism for
"Kiss my ass!"

*Ma: Don't stay out all night
drinkin', ya hear?*

Pa: Kiss my grits!

Ma: What?

Pa: Nothin' dear.

KKK---(see Ku Klux Klan)

*(The use of this term is
often considered offensive)*

Ku Klux Klan

knee-high to a grasshopper---
short, little, young

Last time I seen you, you was only knee-high to a grasshopper.

knee slapper---something very funny; a joke

I haven't heard that joke in years. That's a real knee slapper!

knock it off---“stop what you are doing”

I'mone whup you good if you don't knock it off!

know better---1) to have a better understanding

Damn it, Junior! You know better than to play with fire!

2) to see through mistruth

Don't you lie to me! I know better than that.

3) to have reason for a contrary opinion

She was late for her own birth. I should've known better than to think she'd be here on time.

knows---know

I knows ever'thin' they is to know 'bout bass fishin'.

Knowuttamean?---“Do you understand?”

Mornin' is gonna come early. Knowuttamean? We should probably get some shut-eye.

Ku Klux Klan---
an infamous white supremacist organization

(The use of this term is often considered offensive.)

~L~

ladybird---a ladybug

Look, Momma! There's a ladybird on the window screen!

lagniappe---something extra given to a customer by a merchant

I bought some hamburger meat and the butcher gave me lagniappe for my dog.

Laissez les bons temps rouler!---(French) "Let the good times roll!"; a popular Cajun expression

You should have seen her. She was stumblin' down Bourbon street hollerin' "Laissez les bons temps rouler!"

land o' cotton---
a nickname for the South

Visitin' New York makes me grateful I was born in the land o' cotton.

layed up---confined to a bed due to an illness or injury

I was layed up with the flu for two weeks straight last year.

learn---teach

Will you learn me how to tie a bowline knot?

learned---educated

I ain't learned in such things as music and fine arts.

learnin'---an education

No sir, I ain't never had no learnin'.

learnt---a common pronunciation of “learned”

I learnt a lot in school, but I wouldn't do it again if ya paid me!

leastways---at least

I don't know why they cut the power off. I paid the bill. Leastways, I think I did.

levee---an embankment beside a river or lake to keep lowlands from flooding

If the levee breaks, we're in big trouble!

lessen---unless

You're gonna get a whippin' lessen you go to bed right now!

library---pronunciation of “library”

I found a Mark Twain book down at the local library.

lick---1) to beat up

I ain't skeered of him. I can lick him with one punch.

2) to conquer, to overcome

I think we've almost got it licked.

3) a blow, usually with a clenched fist or a belt

Mom: How'd you get that bruise?

Boy: Aw, me and Bubba was just tradin' licks. He won.

4) a small quantity

Willie ain't got a lick of sense.

lickety split

lickety split---quickly;
with extreme haste;
in an instant

I was sittin' in my deer stand when I noticed a snake quilled up under my chair. Needless to say I got the hell out of that stand lickety split!

lightnin' bug---a firefly

I remember when we used to catch lightnin' bugs in the summertime.

like a bat out of hell---
with extreme haste

I threw a firecracker in the tent and Willie came flyin' out of there like a bat out of hell!

like a big dawg---
expression used to add emphasis to a statement

The doctor gave me some pain killers when I broke my arm, but it still hurt like a big dawg.

like a bull in a china closet--- wildly, roughly, unruly

There's lots of breakable things in this store, so don't act like a bull in a china closet.

like a bump on a log---
still, lazy, dazed

She's so depressed. She just sits in front of the t.v. like a bump on a log.

like a chicken with its head cut off---gyrating wildly

I pulled that fish into the boat and it started floppin' around like a chicken with it's head cut off.

like two peas in a pod

like a duck on a June

bug---tightly adhered to,
closely bonded, relentless

*Ol' Blue was on that
squirrel like a duck on
a June bug.*

like a hawk---with intense
scrutiny

*My parents have watched
me like a hawk ever since
they caught me sneakin'
out my window.*

like all get out---with
abandon; to an extreme
degree

*Man, they was fightin'
like all get out, but then
the law come and took
'em both to jail.*

like hammered dog shit---
bad, awful, of poor
quality, sick

*I feel like hammered
dogshit! How much did I
drink last night?*

like stink on shit---tightly
adhered to, closely
bonded, relentless

*When the Sun goes down in
Texas, the mosquitoes are
on you like stink on shit!*

like to---almost

*He told me that joke and I
like to fell out of my seat.*

like two peas in a pod---

1) identical

*My sisters are like two peas
in a pod. I swear they can
read each other's mind.*

2) comfortable

*Yes dear, I put the children
to bed. They're tucked in
like two peas in a pod.*

line dancin'

line dancin'---popular
western style of dance
where participants form
a line and perform the
same series of steps in
unison

*Boy, I sure did make a
fool of myself line dancin'
last night!*

liquored up---drunk

*That boy goes out an' gets
liquored up almost ever'
night of the week. I don't
see how he holds down a
job.*

lit off/out---left hastily

*I don't know where she
went. She just got off the
phone and lit off down the
street.*

little bitty---very small

*I haven't seen you since
you was just a little bitty
thang.*

little missy---an affectionate
nickname for a female

*Look here, little missy! I
will not tolerate that kind of
language in this house.*

little old---little, small;
insignificant

*That's just a little ol' horny
toad. He won't hurt you
none.*

lit up---drunk, intoxicated

*Man, I've never seen you
this lit up!*

**lit up like a Christmas
tree**---extremely
intoxicated

*She was stumblin' around,
lit up like a Christmas
tree!*

lit up like a firefly---
extremely intoxicated

*I wasn't the only one lit
up like a firefly!*

lollygag---to procrastinate;
to waste time

*Y'all quit lollygaggin' and
get back to work!*

Lone Star State---
a nickname for Texas

*Thar's plenty of good deer
huntin' down in the Lone
Star State.*

long about---around;
about

*It quit rainin' long about
7:30, just after the levy
broke.*

long hair---a male with
long hair; a hippie

*We don't take kindly to
long hairs in this neck of
the woods.*

long haul---a long drive;
a long time; the whole
duration

*It's a long haul from
Atlanta to Houston.*

long johns---thermal
underwear

*Don't forget to pack your
long johns 'cause it's
gonna be cold in the
Appalachians.*

looka/looky here---look
here, pay attention

*Looky here, Virgil. If you
don't start paying attention,
you'll never get passed the
third grade.*

looker---an attractive
person

*She's not much of a looker
but she's got a good heart.*

look-see---a look, an
inspection

*I'm gonna stop at this
garage sale and have a
look-see.*

looks like forty miles of bad road

looks like forty miles of

bad road---usually said
of someone very ugly or
undesirable

I can't stand my mother-in-law. That ol' woman's got a big mouth and she looks like forty miles of bad road!

Loozianna---pronunciation
of "Louisiana"

I can't wait to go to Loozianna for Mardi Gras!

Lord almighty!---
(see "God almighty")

Lord almighty! I've never seen so many mosquitoes.

Lord have mercy!---
a general exclamation

Lord have mercy! This rain has just got to end.

Lordy!---a general
exclamation

Lordy, lordy! That is one fine lookin' woman!

lose one's britches---
to lose a great deal on
a gamble

I lost my britches when the stock market crashed.

lose one's lunch---to vomit

I 'bout lost my lunch when Aunt Bee farted in the car.

Love bug---a small
winged insect appearing
in swarms during
summer and noted for
it's ability to fly around
while mating

I drove down to Houston this weekend. Now my car's covered in Love bugs.

low down---of poor
character

My low down in-laws ain't welcome here.

~M~

ma'am---madam

Excuse me ma'am. Where's the post office?

mad as fire---very angry

Stay away from Helen. It's her time of the month and she's mad as fire.

madder than a wet hen---
extremely angry

I forgot to wash the dishes and Momma got madder than a wet hen.

Magnolia State---
nickname for Mississippi

Aunt Ester moved here from the Magnolia state. She grew up right on the Mississippi river.

make a (big) stink---to
bring an issue to light

I wouldn't make a big stink over it. He only shorted you five cents.

make tracks---to leave

It's time to go. Let's make tracks.

makin' groceries---
grocery shopping

*Pa: Where's your Momma?
Son: She's out makin' groceries.*

MaMa/MawMaw/
MeeMaw---grandmother,
great grandmother

I haven't seen MaMa since she moved to the country.

Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras---(French)

Fat Tuesday; A festive occasion celebrated around the world just before the beginning of lent, the largest and most widely known American celebration occurring in New Orleans

Everyone should go to Mardi Gras at least once in their lifetime. It's one hell of a good time.

mark my words---“heed what I say”

Mark my words, I will get my revenge.

married off---married

Wilbur married off last year and we ain't seen much of him since.

mash---1) to press

It's a c.b., dear. You have to mash the button to talk.

2) to crush

I'll peel the taters if you'll mash 'em.

Mason-Dixon line---the imaginary boundary between the North and South in terms of culture and philosophy.

The last Yankee that came to town, got his ass kicked all the way back across the Mason-Dixon line.

maverick---a stray, unbranded calf

I caught a maverick wanderin' across my land.

Maw/Mama/Momma---mother

Maw, can I have some ice cream?

mend one's fences

Maw and Paw---family
owned or non-franchised

*That little Maw and Paw
restaurant on the corner
has the best bar-B-Q in
town.*

me---1) often used at the
end of a statement in
Cajun speech

*I could not possibly eat one
more bite, me. I'm stuffed!*

2) myself

*I'm gonna buy me a new
fishin' pole.*

meadow muffin---cow or
horse dung

*Somethin' stinks in here.
Did someone step in a
meadow muffin?*

**meaner than a junkyard
dog**---extremely mean or
aggressive

*I'd avoid her if I were
you. She's meaner than a
junkyard dog.*

MeeMaw---great
grandmother

*MeeMaw's comin' for
supper. I'd better start
cookin'.*

'member---"remember"

*I still 'member when Len
fell outta the china berry
tree and landed on that
barb wire fence.*

mend one's fences---
to lay a dispute to rest;
to forgive and make up
after a dispute

*I think you two should
just quit bickerin' and
mend your fences already.*

menfolk

menfolk---men

*All the menfolk got together
and had a barn raisin'.*

Meskan---“Mexican”

*I learned to speak Spanish
fluently growing up near
the Meskan border.*

mess---a large quantity

*Sissy stirred up a mess of
wasps and got stung all
over.*

methinks---pronounced
“MEEthinks”; I think

*Methinks I'mone have
myself a beer.*

Mexican strawberries---
pinto beans

*We're havin' fajitas and
Mexican strawberries for
supper.*

middling---“so so”;
average; mediocre

Doctor: *And how are you
feeling today?*
Patient: *Oh, just middlin'.*

might could---might be
able to

Daughter: *Pa, can you give
me a ride to the mall?*
Pa: *Well, I reckon I might
could do that.*

might ought---should

*You might ought to roll
your window up before it
starts raining.*

mighty---very

*It's gettin' mighty hot out
here.*

Mississippi Delta blues

mighty white of you---

very kind of you.

Buddy: *Take some of that Bar-B-Q home with you.*

Betty: *Why thank you. That's mighty white of you.*

mind---to obey

You kids best mind your mother or I'll get my belt!

mind you---remember, pay attention, be cautious

It's o.k. to swim in the crick, but mind you, there's lots of snakes.

mind your p's and q's---

“stay out of trouble”,
to behave

You kids best mind your p's and q's while you're at your grandmother's.

minner---pronunciation of
“minnow”

I caught the biggest fish of my life with just a little ol' minner.

mint julep---traditional

Southern drink of mint
tea with whiskey

We went to New Orleans in search of a mint julep.

Miss---sometimes used
before a female's first
name whether she's
married or not

Well, hello Miss Gloria! I haven't seen you in ages.

Mississippi Delta blues---
(see “Delta blues”)

Nothin takes me home like pure Mississippi Delta blues.

Mississippi mud

Mississippi mud---

A
brownie-like desert
covered with chocolate
and marshmallow cream

*My Momma makes the best
Mississippi mud.*

mite---a small degree

It's a mite humid today.

Momma---

mother;
commonly used by
Southern adults as
well as children

*Don't you be talkin' bad
about my Momma. I'll
whup you good!*

Momma didn't raise

no fool---“don't take me
for an idiot”

*Hell no, I didn't forget
the tickets. Momma didn't
raise no fool!*

month of Sundays---

a long time

*I ain't seen you in a month
of Sundays.*

moon pie---

a round
confection with
marshmallow filling
common in the South

*Momma gave me some
money so I could buy me
a coke and a moon pie.*

moonshine---

illegally
distilled corn liquor

*Back in the day, PaPa
made a lot of money sellin'
moonshine.*

more better/mo' better---

better, better than

*I did a lot of work on that
truck. Now it runs a lot
more better.*

more than you can

shake a stick at---an
excessive quantity

*My finances are in bad
shape. I've got more bills
than you can shake a
stick at.*

mosey---to stroll casually,
to go; to walk

*I'mone mosey on over to
the barber and get my
ears lowered.*

mosquito hawk---
a harmless insect
resembling a large
mosquito

Junior: *Momma, there's a
bug in my room!*
Momma: *Leave it alone.
It's just a mosquito hawk.*

Mossyhorns---name for
a trophy size deer that's
presumably old enough
to have moss growing
on it's antlers

*I saw ol' Mossyhorns this
morning, but I just couldn't
bring myself to shoot him.*

mostest---the most
(see also "-est")

*Thar musta been 'bout fifty
deer standin' thar in that
clearin'. That was the
mostest I'd ever seen in
one place.*

motor---an engine

*Mom blew the motor in
dad's truck. Boy is he
gonna be pissed!*

mountain dew---corn
liquor

*Grandpa's been hittin' the
mountain dew again.*

much obliged---
"thank you", indebted

*Thanks for your help. I'm
much obliged.*

mud bugs---crawfish
(see "crawfish")

*I've seen people suck down
mud bugs like it was an
Olympic event.*

mud dauber

mud dauber---(see “dirt dauber”)

We got three storage sheds and two of ‘em’s full of mud daubers.

muddin’---driving any offroad vehicle wildly through a mud bog for fun

We’re goin’ muddin’ down in the bottom on Leroy’s property. Wanna come along?

muggy---very hot and humid

It’s always muggy down in Houston.

muscadine---a large grape common in the South

Would you be so kind as to pour me a glass of that muscadine wine?

My dogs are barkin’---
“My feet hurt”

Man, my dog’s are barkin’. I’m not movin’ for the rest of the day.

~N~

nary---none, not

He's got nary a lick of sense.

naw---no

Martha: Did you eat the last piece of pie?

Truman: Naw. Wasn't me.

nearabout---about; around; approximately

I guess it was nearabout 10:30 when I got home last night.

necked---naked

Hey Bessie, let's send the kids to your sister's house and get necked!

neck of the woods---
geographical area,
part of town

So what brings you to this neck of the woods?

necktie party/necktie social---a public hanging

We ain't had a good necktie social in over fifty years.

neither here nor there---
irrelevant

What he does for a livin' is neither here nor there. I don't want any Yankee datin' my daughter!

neither hide nor hair---
no indication of

He just took off and I've seen neither hide nor hair of him in three months.

nervous as a long-tailed cat...

**nervous as a long-tailed
cat in a room full of
rockin' chairs---**

extremely nervous

Every time I have to go to the doctor, I get nervous as a long-tailed cat in a room full of rockin' chairs.

neutral ground---the

concrete or grassy median between the two sides of a highway or divided road; the area where trolley cars run such as in New Orleans

You boys run down to the store and fetch me some flour and eggs. And be careful crossin' the neutral ground!

newfangled---newly fashioned, modern

My grandpa says that newfangled clothes are gaudy.

nigger---historically, a derogatory reference to an African-American, but also used to refer to a contemptible character of any race

(The use of this term is often considered offensive.)

nigger-rig---

to improperly repair something just enough to work temporarily; may be considered offensive

My throttle broke in the middle of nowhere and I had to nigger-rig it to get home.

nigger-shooter---

a slingshot; may be considered offensive

I got a whippin' 'cause I shot a car with my nigger-shooter.

nigger toes---Brazil nuts;
may be considered
offensive

*There's beer in the fridge
and a bowl of nigger toes
on the coffee table. Help
yourself.*

nigh on to---almost, about,
nearly

*It was nigh on to thirty
years ago, but I remember
it as if it were yesterday.*

ninny---1) a breast

*Remember that Christmas
when Aunt Ester got drunk
and started showin' off her
ninnies?*

2) "sissy", a weakling,
a whining person

*You damn ninny! I've never
seen anyone so afraid of the
dark in all my life!*

no account/no 'count---
worthless

*That no 'count bastard
owes me money.*

noggin---head

*Skeeter fell out of a tree
and landed on his noggin.*

nohow---no way, anyway,
besides

*It don't matter to me
nohow.*

**no more shame than
a naked whore on
a bedquilt**---no sense
of guilt or modesty

*Damn it Ethel, put some
clothes on! You got no
more shame than a naked
whore on a bedquilt!*

none---at all; a common
double negative

*It don't hurt my feelin's
none.*

none too

none too---not at all

Pa's none too happy about me scratchin' his truck.

nope---no

Harley: Have you seen the Sheriff?

Huck: Nope, not today.

N'Orluns/N'awlins---

common pronunciations of "New Orleans"

It's not hard to have a good time in N'Orluns.

norther---a cold front

from the arctic usually accompanied by rain, sleet, hail, or snow

I need to wrap the pipes. There's a norther comin'.

no-see-ums---tiny insects

Momma says she hates campin' 'cause of the no-see-ums.

nothin' but a thang---no big deal

A little rain don't bother me. It ain't nothin' but a thang.

no use beatin' a dead

horse---proverb meaning it's futile to attempt to change something that cannot be changed

So you got fired. Move on. There's no use beatin' a dead horse.

nowadays---presently; in the current time frame as opposed to the past

We used to get our water from a well, but nowadays we have runnin' water.

'n' them---“and them”;
people closely associated
with the named person,
usually family;
pronounced “inEM”

*I can't remember the last
time I saw Leroy 'n' them.*

nuculer---pronounced
“NOOKyuhler”; nuclear

*Grandpa thinks nuculer
power is just a myth.*

~O~

offen/off'n---off (of)

*I broke my leg last year
when I fell offen my deer
stand.*

okey-dokey---“o.k.”,
agreed

*If you'll go clean your
room, I'll make you some
cookies. Okey-dokey?*

Okie---a person born,
raised, or living in
Oklahoma

*I've got lots of coon ass
relatives, but not a single
Okie in the bunch.*

Oklahoma rain---
a dust storm

*An Oklahoma rain blew in
and scratched the hell out
of my car.*

okra---vegetable usually
sliced and served boiled,
pickled, or batter fried

*I could make a meal of
fried okra alone!*

ol'---“old”; often used
before someone's name
even when that person
is not old

*It looks like ol' Leroy's
late for work again.*

old biddy---a cranky old
woman

*I'll be damned if I'm
gonna invite that old biddy
to Thanksgivin' dinner.*

ol' boy---any male person;
not necessarily old or
a boy

*That ol' boy never could
manage to keep a job.*

<u>olden</u> ---old	<i>We couldn't afford shoes back in the olden days.</i>
<u>older than dirt</u> ---very old	<i>My grandpa is older than dirt.</i>
<u>old fogie</u> ---a prudish or old-fashioned person	<i>My dad's an old fogie. He won't let me date until I'm eighteen.</i>
<u>old lady</u> ---wife or girlfriend	<i>My ol' lady is constantly bitchin' at me fer leavin' the toilet seat up.</i>
<u>old man</u> ---1) husband or boyfriend	<i>My ol' man is goin' huntin' this weekend.</i>
2) father	<i>Ask your ol' man if you can borrow his truck.</i>
<u>Old Man River/Old Muddy/Old Blackwater</u> ---nicknames for the Mississippi river	<i>I once lost a boat to Ol' Blackwater.</i>
<u>Old Scratch</u> ---Satan, the Devil	<i>That boy is so mean I'd swear he was the son of Old Scratch.</i>
<u>old-timey</u> ---old-fashioned	<i>Hey, I see you've got one of them old-timey sepia pictures.</i>
<u>on account of</u> ---because	<i>Mom says we have to walk home from school on account of she's too drunk to come pick us up.</i>

once in a blue moon

once in a blue moon---

rarely, seldomly

I only get sick once in a blue moon.

open up a can of whoop

ass---to assault someone,
to become violent

*If he don't watch his mouth,
I'm gonna open up a can of
whoop ass.*

open up a can of worms---

to instigate a conflict or
negative situation

*Don't say anything about
Uncle Leroy's girlfriend.
You might open up a can
of worms.*

ornery---mean, stubborn,
aggressive

*I'll sell you my horse for
cheap. She's too ornery for
me to handle.*

ought not---should not

*Little boys that can't behave
ought not go to the carnival
with the good little boys.*

oughtn't---

(see "ought not")

*You oughtn't go swimmin'.
It's fixin' to rain.*

outen/out'n---out of

*She came a runnin' outen
the barn hollerin', "Snake!
Snake!"*

outhouse---a toilet located
outside and away from
the main house

*Pa, get a gun! Thar's a
snake in the outhouse!*

out like Lottie's eye---

1) unconscious, asleep

*Boy, you sure whooped him
good. He's out like Lottie's
eye!*

2) outdated, out of style

*Poodle skirts and bobby
socks are out like Lottie's
eye.*

out of kilter/off kilter---

misaligned, maladjusted,
malfunctioning

*Ethel hit a curb in my car
and knocked my suspension
off kilter.*

out of whack---

(see "out of kilter")

*I haven't tuned that guitar
in years. I'm sure it's all
out of whack.*

over yonder---

(see "yonder")

*Go fetch a bucket of water
from the well over yonder.*

~P~

pack---to carry

*I walked across Texas
packin' nothin' but the
clothes on my back.*

pallet---bedding comprised
of blankets on the floor

*Of course you can stay here
tonight. I'll make you a
pallet in the living room.*

Palmetto State---nickname
for South Carolina

*I've got some relatives
livin' in Charleston. That's
in the Palmetto State.*

panhandle---the
northeastern extremities
of the states of Florida,
Oklahoma, and Texas

*I once lost a good dog
to a tornado out in the
Texas panhandle.*

PaPa/PawPaw/PeePaw---
grandfather or great
grandfather

*PaPa never did believe in
spankin' the young'uns.*

parish---a county in
Louisiana

*Land is mighty expensive
in my parish.*

partner---person to whom
you are referring

*Barkeep: What can I get fer
ya, partner?*

parts---a particular
geographic area

*We don't see too many
Yankees in these parts.*

pass by---to stop by

*I'll pass by your house
sometime this afternoon.*

passel---a significant amount

My Granny's got a passel of cows.

Paw---father

My Paw done taught me everything he knew about fishin'.

pay no mind---ignore

Pay no mind to your brother. He's just teasing you.

peach---a pretty or likeable girl

You'll really like my niece. She's a peach.

peach fuzz---facial hair on a newly pubescent male

Little Joe's growin' up fast! He's already interested in girls and I think I even saw a little peach fuzz.

Peach State---nickname for Georgia

If ya can't deal with hurricanes, ya sure don't want to live in the Peach State.

peachy---1) fine, excellent

Joe Bob: How are you doin' today?

Bobby Joe: Well, I'm just peachy! How 'bout you?

2) terrible (sarcastically)

Joe Bob: I accidentally dropped your fishin' pole in the bayou.

Bobby Joe: Oh, well isn't that just peachy!

peachy keen

peachy keen---fine;
of good quality

*That sure is a peachy keen
little car you got there.*

peaked---sickly

*Are you feeling alright?
You look a little peaked.*

peart/pert---well, alert

*At the ripe old age of
seventy-five, I'm just as
peart as I've ever been.*

peart off---
to rebel verbally

*Iffen you peart off to me
one more time, I'm gonna
tan yer hide!*

pea shooter---a small gun
such as a BB gun or a
pellet gun

*Let's go shoot us some cans
with my new pea shooter.*

pecan candy---candy made
from pecans and sugar

*My Dad makes the best
pecan candy this side of
the Mississippi.*

pecker---a penis

*Little boys are fascinated
with their peckers.*

peckerwood---woodpecker

*Those damn peckerwoods
are destroyin' my barn!*

peecan---a common
pronunciation of "pecan"

*Granny's got a peecan tree
in her back yard.*

Pelican State---nickname
for Louisiana

*Every now and then, we
get to go gamblin' over
in the Pelican State.*

pepper-belly---1) someone
who enjoys hot or spicy
food

*I've always been a pepper-
belly. I can eat jalapeños
'til the cows come home.*

2) a derogatory reference
to a Hispanic person

*(The use of this term is
often considered offensive.)*

pert near---almost, close to

*Supper's pert near done.
Y'all go get washed up.*

pert near, but not plumb---
almost, but not quite

*Sister: Are you done in the
bathroom?*

*Brother: Pert near, but not
plumb. I'll be out in a
minute.*

petered out---expended,
exhausted

*Somebody get some wood.
The fire's almost petered
out.*

pick a fight---to antagonize
to the point of violence;
to initiate a fight or
confrontation

*He's been tryin' to pick a
fight with me all day, and
I've just about had it.*

pick 'em up truck---
(see "pickup")

*I just bought me a brand
new pick 'em up truck.*

pickin' (at)---teasing

*Don't get mad. I'm just
pickin' at you.*

pickle---a bind;
a dilemma

*My car broke down on
the way to work and
left me in a pickle.*

pick one's brain

pick one's brain---

to discuss something
with someone; to get
someone's opinion

*Ya got a minute? I need
to pick your brain about
a few things.*

pickup---a truck

*I got rear-ended by a
pickup this mornin'.*

piddle/piddlin'---

1) goofing off, wasting
time

*It's time to go to school.
Quit piddlin' and get ready.*

2) to urinate

*That damn dog piddled on
my shoes again!*

piddly ass---insignificant, scrawny, miniscule

*I'm tired of workin' my
fingers to the bone for
a little ol' piddly ass
paycheck!*

pie-anter---humorous pronunciation of "piano"

*I once had an upright
pie-anter.*

piece---a short distance

*Let's walk down this trail
a piece.*

pill bug---

(see "doodlebug")

*Sissy quit playin' with pill
bugs the day she got that
one stuck up her nose.*

pine for---to yearn for

*For years now, Bobby's
been pinin' for Ellie, but
she still won't give him
the time of day.*

piss up a rope

pine knot---a piece of dead
pine in which the sap has
turned to turpentine;
makes a good fire starter

*Go fetch a pine knot and
I'll build us a fire.*

piney woods---thick forest;
backwoods

*Y'all be careful runnin'
around out thar in the
piney woods. Ya hear?*

piss ant---a weak or
spineless person

*You piss ant! Stand up for
yourself once in a while.*

piss ass---weak or
insignificant

*That's the most piss ass
excuse I've ever heard.*

pisser---1) a toilet;
a bathroom

*Leroy: Where's Bubba?
Quincy: He went to the
pisser.*

2) misfortune

*The game got rained out.
What a pisser!*

pissin' and moanin'---
complaining

*We're almost there so quit
yer pissin' and moanin'.*

pissin' in the wind---
doing something futile

*You're pissin' in the wind
tryin' to start a fire with
wet wood.*

piss poor---bad, of poor
quality

*Leave me alone! I'm in a
piss poor mood.*

piss up a rope---sarcastic
command for someone
to go away

*Why don't you go piss up
a rope?*

playin' possum

playin' possum---

pretending to be dead
or asleep

*Billy doesn't want to go
to the dentist. He's in his
room playin' possum.*

plumb---completely

*Aunt Mildred has gone
senile. Yep, she's just
plumb crazy!*

plumb numb---drunk

*Can you carry me home?
I'm plumb numb.*

podunk---of poor quality, substandard, worthless, tacky

*That was the most podunk
restaurant I've ever eaten
at.*

poke---a bag

Watcha got in the poke?

pole cat---a skunk

*I can't seem to keep the
pole cats out of my trash.*

polk---greens served fried, usually with scrambled eggs and bacon

*Momma's cookin' polk
and eggs for breakfast.*

polk, roll, and grits---

“nothing”; sarcastic reply
to someone inquiring
about a meal; short for
“Poke your feet under
the table, roll your eyes,
and grit your teeth.”

*Son: What's for dinner?
Pa: Polk, roll, and grits
if you don't finish your
chores!*

polk salad---a heaping bowl of polk greens

*You best eat all your polk
salad iffen you want to
grow up to be big and
strong.*

ponder on---to think about;
to contemplate, consider

Linda: *What are you starin' at?*

Lenard: *Nothing. I was just ponderin' on goin' fishin' tomorrow.*

pooped---tired, exhausted

I just woke up and I'm pooped already!

poor boy/po' boy---
a submarine sandwich

Would you pick us up a couple of po' boys on yer way home from work?

pop---a carbonated drink

You got any pop in the fridge?

pop a squat---
(see "cop a squat")

Pop a quat and stay awhile.

porch baby---a child too young to venture past the porch

I remember when you were just a porch baby wettin' yer drawers.

posse---a search group; a lynch mob

When that feller broke out of jail, we gathered up a posse to go look for him.

powerful---extremely

It's powerful hot and you look powerful thirsty. Why don't you sit down and I'll fix you a cold drink.

pow-wow---a get together, a discussion, a meeting, a party

We're havin' a pow-wow at my house tonight, if y'all wanna come.

praline

praline---a sugar coated
pecan

*Would you like a praline
with your coffee?*

preserves---homemade jam,
typically preserved in
mason jars

*Mom makes the best apricot
preserves.*

pretty---very, significantly

It's pretty humid today.

pretty damn---excessively

*It got pretty damn cold
last winter.*

pretty penny---a large
sum of money

*By the size of that diamond,
I'd say that ring cost a
pretty penny.*

prit near---
(see "pert near")

*It's prit near Christmas.
Do you have all your
shoppin' done?*

proby/proly---
common pronunciations
of "probably"

*I told Willie to pick up
a loaf of bread, but he'll
proly forget.*

pronto---(Spanish)
immediately

*My wife just went into
labor. We need to get to
the hospital pronto!*

punkin---1) alternate
pronunciation of
"pumpkin"

*They's havin' a punkin
carvin' contest over at the
community center.*

2) a term of endearment

*Come here, Punkin, and
give Momma a kiss.*

put the hurt on

pup---a child

*Feels like only yesterday,
I was just a pup.*

purdy/purty---pretty

That sunset shore is purty!

**put one's tit in the
ringer**---to punish,
to scold

*That boy is three hours
late. I'm gonna put his
tit in the ringer when he
shows up!*

put one under the jail---
said of someone
deserving serious
punishment

*If that boy don't change his
ways, they're gonna put
him under the jail.*

**put on the back
burner**---to postpone

*I don't have time to do
it right now. I'll just have to
put it on the back burner
until I get around to it.*

put out---upset; imposed
upon

*I reckon I'll stay for supper
iffen I'm not puttin' you out.*

put the hurt on---
to cause harm to
or punish someone

*If I find out who shot my
horse, I'm gonna put the
hurt on 'em!*

~Q~

queer as a three dollar bill---very strange;
blatantly homosexual

I tell ya, that boy's queer as a three dollar bill. Next thing ya know, he'll be showin' up to work in a dress.

quicker 'n shit---very fast;
“quicker than shit”

Throw yer line right over yonder, and I guarantee you'll catch a fish quicker 'n shit!

quietus---death;
an end to something

Behave or I'll put a quietus on you!

quilled---a pronunciation
of “coiled”

I found a snake quilled up in the chicken coop!

quiltin' bee---a gathering
for the purpose of
knitting quilts

Are you goin' to the next church quiltin' bee?

~R~

rabbit ears---

a television antenna

Will you adjust the rabbit ears while you're up?

racket---excessively loud, or alarming noise

You kids knock off all that racket! Momma's tryin' to watch her stories.

rainin' like a cow pissin' on a flat rock---raining heavily

Jethro: Is it still rainin' outside?

Leroy: Like a cow pissin' on a flat rock!

raised in a barn---lacking the proper mannerism of closing a door behind oneself; used as an insult

Go back and close that door. Were you raised in a barn?

raisin' cane---

(see "raisin' hell")

The dogs are raisin' cane in the front yard again. Will you go see what they're barkin' at?

raisin' hell---1) engaging in a disruptive argument or confrontation

If you don't quit raisin' hell with the neighbors, somebody's gonna call the police.

2) celebrating

I'm gettin' married tomorrow, so I'll be raisin' hell tonight!

rambunctious

rambunctious---unruly,
reckless, hyper

*Why did I have to be cursed
with the most rambunctious
kids on Earth?*

rampy---tasting of garlic
or wild onions

*This is good soup, but it's
just a bit too rampy.*

rarin' to---enthusiastic and
ready

*I'm all gussied up and
rarin' to go!*

rash of shit---a scolding

*The last time I came home
late from the bar, my wife
gave me a rash of shit.*

rat killin'---chores, duties;
what one was previously
doing

*Well, I reckon I ought to get
back to my rat killin'.*

RC---Royal Crown cola;
a quintessential Southern
beverage

*Would you like somethin'
to drink? I've got RC, tea,
orange juice, and beer.*

read up---familiar with,
knowledgeable

*I ain't read up on that
subject, but we could talk
about bait worms.*

reckon---to think, to
reason, to suppose

*Well, it's after midnight.
I reckon I should go to
bed.*

recollect---remember

*Man, I just can't recollect
what I did with my keys.*

red beans---kidney beans

*Can you pick up some red
beans and rice while you're
out?*

red beans and rice---

a standard Creole
side dish

*Southern fried chicken is
often served with red
beans and rice.*

red bugs---(see “chiggers”)

*Last time Ma went campin’,
she got into a mess of red
bugs and hasn’t gone back
since.*

red-eye? (you)---

“Are you ready?”

Bubba: *It’s time to go. You
red-eye?*

Willie: *Ready as I’ll ever
be.*

red light---a traffic signal

*I got in a wreck down at the
red light.*

redneck---a poor, white,
resourceful, rural, working
class, Southerner; usually
implies ignorance or lack
of education; sometimes
considered offensive

*A redneck in a pick-up
truck helped me pull my
car out of the mud.*

revival---a lively religious
event

*A revival is about the most
fun you could ever have in
church.*

ribbin’---teasing, joking
with

*Aw, don’t get mad. I’m just
ribbin’ ya.*

rig---an 18 wheel cargo
truck

*I’d like to own my own rig
someday.*

right---very; downright
(see “downright”)

*I’m right parched. Got any
lemonade?*

right directly

right directly---promptly

Waitress: *I'll be back right directly with your drinks.*

right in the head---sane;
of sound mind

Aunt Bessie ain't quite right
in the head.

right purty---very pretty

It's a right purty day today!

right quick---quickly, for
just a minute

*C'mere right quick. I want
to show you something.*

right then and there---
at that precise moment

*I remember the first time I
saw her. I couldn't help but
fall in love with her right
then and there.*

riled up---excited, angry

*Don't get the dog all riled
up. She'll piss all over
herself.*

ripe---rotten, foul smelling

*Whew! You are ripe! Go
take a shower!*

road apple---
(see "meadow muffin")

*I'd hate to be the guy in the
parade who has to pick up
the road apples.*

**rode hard and put up
wet**---"used and abused";
very unattractive

*You couldn't pay me to date
your sister. She looks like
she's been rode hard and
put up wet.*

rot gut---cheap liquor

*Keep drinkin' that ol' rot
gut and you'll be pushin'
up daisies in no time.*

rough-housin'--- sparring
or playing recklessly

*Y'all quit rough-housin' in
the livin' room.*

rubbed off (on)---
influenced

*I spent a week in Louisiana
and the dialect rubbed off
on me.*

ruckus---a noisy
commotion

*I heard a ruckus in the
barn. Go check it out!*

ruint---a pronunciation
of "ruined"

*My wife thought it was ok
to shift gears without usin'
the clutch and ruint my
transmission.*

run---to drive

*Can somebody run me
to the store?*

**runnin' like a sugar
tree**---flowing profusely

*I cut my finger wide open
and the blood started
runnin' like a sugar tree.*

**runnin' off at the mouth/
runnin' one's mouth**---
talking incessantly

*I'll never take her out
again. She's always runnin'
off at the mouth.*

rustle up---to find, gather,
or prepare

*Go rustle up some wood
and I'll build us a fire.*

ruther---a pronunciation
of "rather"

*I'd ruther be layin' on a
beach somewhere.*

rye-cheer---pronunciation
of "right here"

*I'm gonna sit rye-cheer and
watch the football game.*

~S~

sack---a bag

*I've got a sack of peanuts.
Want some?*

sam hell---

a mild expletive

*What the sam hell are
you doin'?*

San Antone---

San Antonio, Texas

*It's a long haul from
Memphis to San Antone.*

sarsaparilla---root beer

*Have you ever tasted
home made sarsaparilla?*

sass---

verbal insubordination

*You might sass me now,
but wait until your father
gets home from work.*

savvy---to understand

*Do you savvy what I'm
tryin' to tell ya?*

sawbuck---a \$10 bill

*Could you loan me a
sawbuck 'til payday?*

scalawag---a crook;

a disreputable person

*I can spot a scalawag a
mile away.*

scalded corn bread---

corn bread batter mixed
with scalding hot water
and cooked in a greased
iron skillet

*Momma fixes scalded
corn bread on Saturdays.*

scare up---to locate

I think I'm gonna scare up something to eat. I'm kind of hungry.

scarf---to eat hastily

Don't scarf your food, son. You'll get a stomach ache.

scarf up on---to eat a substantial amount of

Don't scarf up on candy before supper. You'll ruin your appetite.

scat (cat)---1) command for a cat to go away

Scat! Get off my desk!

2) "bless you" after someone sneezes

schoolin'---education

You won't get anywhere in life without the proper schoolin'.

scuppernong---
the muscadine grape

That is some damn fine scuppernong wine!

see a man about a horse---
to use the restroom

Ooh, I'll be back. I need to see a man about a horse.

see fit---to believe to be appropriate

My parents seen fit to put me in military school on account of the public school done kicked me out.

seen---saw

I seen a wolf up on the ridge!

see you later alligator...

See you later alligator.

Afterwhile crocodile.---
a common exchange of
farewell

Guest: *It's been nice seeing
you. See you later alligator!*

Host: *Afterwhile crocodile!*

set---sit

*Set still and finish your
supper.*

shack up---to live with an
intimate partner to whom
you are not married

*Have you heard about
Bessie Lou shackin' up
with Earl?*

shade tree---a large tree
providing plenty of shade

*We should have the cook-
out at your house because
you have more shade trees.*

shade tree mechanic---
a novice mechanic;
only works on an
automobile if absolutely
necessary

Withrow: *Do you know
anything about rebuilding
a carburetor?*

David: *Nope, I'm just a
shade tree mechanic.*

shakin' like a dog shittin'
peach pits---shaking
uncontrollably

*That haunted house scared
Becky so bad she came out
shakin' like a dog shittin'
peach pits.*

sharp---1) of high quality;
pleasing to the eye

*Well don't you look sharp!
Is that a new suit?*

2) intelligent, witty, clever

That boy is sharp, I tell ya.

shat---past tense of "shit"

*Goddamn it! The dog shat
on the rug again!*

shenanigans---acts of mischief

I will not tolerate any shenanigans in my house!

shindig---any celebration, particularly a party or dance

I'm havin' a shindig this weekend and y'all are all invited.

shining one's belt buckle---dancing

Wilbur's been shinin' his belt buckle all night long.

shiner---a black eye

Who gave you that shiner?

shinny---climb

Shinny up that tree and see where we are.

shin oak---a small tree or bush

I tore my leg up on a shin oak. I knew I should have worn jeans.

shiteater---a dog; pronounced "shiTEEter"

I got a good shiteater. He'll fetch ducks and everythang!

shitfire---a general exclamation

Well, shitfire! I ain't seen you in a coon's age.

shit from shinolah---nothing

Billy don't know shit from shinolah!

shit hemorrhage---a fit, a tantrum

We'll get to the airport on time. Don't have a shit hemorrhage!

shit no!---no (emphatically)

*Johnny: You didn't lose that lottery ticket, did you?
Bubba: Shit no! Are you nuts?*

shit on a shingle

shit on a shingle---toast
topped with a ground
beef gravy

*Do y'all want sandwiches
or shit on a shingle for
dinner?*

shit or get off the pot---
“hurry up and take action
or get out of the way”

*Shit or get off the pot!
I don't have all day to
wait on you.*

shittin'---bluffing, joking

Courtney: *Are you shittin'
me?*

Damon: *I wouldn't shit you.
You're my favorite turd.*

shitter---a toilet;
a bathroom

Sis: *Where's Dad?*
Bro: *I think he's in the
shitter.*

shittin' and gittin'---
doing something with
haste

*We were shittin' and gittin'
because we were already
four hours behind.*

shitty---1) drunk

*I tend to get pretty shitty
during the holidays.*

2) of poor quality

*This is the shittiest pizza
I've ever eaten!*

3) rude

*Hey, don't get shitty with
me. I'll kick your ass!*

shoddy---of poor quality,
malfunctioning

*Their service is so shoddy,
I wouldn't let my dawg eat
at that restaurant!*

shotgun wedding

Shoog---short for “Sugar”
a term of endearment
(see “Sugar”)

*I'd do anything for you,
Shoog!*

shoot---1) “ask me”

Daughter: *Daddy, I have a question.*
Dad: *Shoot.*

2) euphemism for “shit”

Aw shoot! I broke a nail.

shootin' iron---a gun

I bought me a new shootin' iron. Wanna see it?

shoot the shit---to talk

I just thought I'd stop by to shoot the shit with ya.

shore/sho'---pronunciations of “sure”

It shore is mighty hot!

shotgun---the front passenger seat in an automobile

I've got shotgun on the way to the beach.

shotgun shack---a narrow house with the rooms arranged in a line from front to back

Uncle Jeb finally sold that ol' shotgun shack and moved off to the country.

shotgun wedding---a forced wedding; insinuates that the father of the bride is holding the groom at gunpoint

I heard Cletus got Annie Mae pregnant. I predict there will be a shotgun wedding in his future.

show

show---a movie theater;
a movie

*We're all goin' to the show.
Wanna come?*

shuck---to remove the
shells from oysters or
the husks from corn

*Growin' up on a farm will
make you hate shuckin'
corn.*

shucks---“gosh”, “golly”

Shucks, I'm speechless.

shut-eye---sleep

*Y'all be quiet! I'm trying to
get some shut-eye.*

sick to one's stomach---
nauseated

*Creamed corn makes me
sick to my stomach.*

simmer down---command
for one to calm down or
be quiet

*Simmer down before you
say something you'll regret.*

sinch ya's---since you are

*Sinch ya's already up, will
you grab me a beer?*

sippin' whiskey---high
quality whiskey, not to
be wasted

*Slow down! That thar's
sippin' whiskey.*

sitcheeayted---humorous
pronunciation of
“situated”

*I just moved into a new
house. It'll be weeks before
I get fully sitcheeayted.*

sittin' pretty---to be in a
secure or prosperous state

*Ol' Leroy is sittin' pretty
since he got his inheritance.*

six-gun---
(see “six-shooter”)

*He came runnin' out of the
bar with six-guns a blazin'.*

six-shooter---a six-shot
revolver

*Wanna see my new six-
shooter?*

skedaddle---to leave in a
hurry

*You're gonna be late if
you don't skedaddle.*

skeered---a pronunciation
of "scared"

*I'll race any car in town.
I ain't skeered.*

skeeter---a mosquito

*Close the door! You're
lettin' the skeeters in.*

skin---to punish harshly

*I'm gonna skin ya if you
ever do that again!*

skippin' rock---a smooth,
flat rock suitable for
"skipping" across the
surface of a body of
water

*Doc's boy hit Boudreaux's
boy in the head with a
skippin' rock and now
they's a feudin' like
hillbillies.*

skittish---nervous, easily
frightened

*My dawg's gettin' skittish
in her old age.*

skivvies---underwear

*The doctor will be in
shortly. Go ahead and
strip down to your skivvies.*

slew---a large quantity

*There's a slew of beer in
the fridge. Feel free to help
yourself.*

slack-jawwed---dumb;
ignorant; mentally slow

*I'll be glad when she comes
to her senses and stops
datin' that slack-jawwed
boy from Arkansas.*

slim and none

slim and none---a small chance or poor odds that something will happen

Chances are slim and none that I'll ever become President.

slim pickin's---an inadequate selection to choose from

Looks like we got slim pickin's in the pantry. Y'all wanna go out to eat?

slop---1) left-over food fed to pigs

Be sure to scrape your plate into the slop bucket!

2) to feed pigs

Did you remember to slop the pigs this mornin'?

slow as molasses---extremely slow

Will you hurry up! I swear, you're slow as molasses.

slow time---standard time (i.e. the opposite of Daylight Savings Time)

I just can't get used to this slow time.

smack dab---directly centered

Willard went to a baseball game and got hit right smack dab in the head by a foul ball.

small taters---an insignificant matter or situation

I wouldn't worry about it if I were you. Sounds like small taters to me.

smart as a box of rocks---dumb or ignorant

Don't listen to anything she says. She's about as smart as a box of rocks.

smart off---

(see "peart off")

*Don't you smart off to me!
I'll slap you into next
Tuesday.*

smarts---1) intelligence,
know-how

*It takes a lot of smarts to
be a chemist.*

2) stings, hurts

*Ooh, that smarts. That's
the last time I walk in
front of a pitchin' machine.*

smell good---cologne or
perfume

*Can I borrow some smell
good? I've got a date.*

smidgen---

a small quantity

*I think the chicken needs
a smidgen of salt.*

s'mores---a delicious
desert comprised of
campfire roasted jumbo
marshmallows sandwiched
with chocolate between
two graham crackers

*My favorite part of campin'
is makin' s'mores after
dinner.*

snap---reason, awareness

*You've got to appear in
court in 10 minutes.
Where's your snap?*

snap beans---green beans;
string beans

*Grandma used to make
us peel buckets upon
buckets of snap beans.*

snipe huntin'---a prank
where the victim is left
in the woods, in the dark,
holding a bag, "huntin'
snipe" (see "huntin' snipe")

*Remember when we took
Bubba snipe huntin'? It
took him 45 minutes to get
back to camp.*

snot-slingin' drunk

snot-slingin' drunk---
extremely intoxicated

Whoo, boy! I got snot-slingin' drunk last night!

snug as a bug in a rug---
warm, cozy, comfortable

This lodge is cozy. I feel snug as a bug in a rug.

soam bitch---pronunciation
of "son of a bitch"

That soam bitch stole my horse!

social---a dance or party

I met the girl of my dreams last night at the social.

soda (sody) pop---any
sweet carbonated
beverage

I'm out of orange juice, but I've got plenty of soda pop. Want one?

soda (sody) water---
(see "soda pop")

I need to go to the store for more soda water. Do you need anything?

**so dry the trees are
bribin' the dogs**---
extremely dry due to
a lack of rain

It hasn't rained in weeks. It's so dry the trees are bribin' the dogs!

so mad I could spit---
very angry

Boy, sometimes you just make me so mad I could spit!

some odd---an undefined
amount

We must've driven a hundred and some odd miles before we came to a gas station.

Southern drawl

somethin' fierce---with gusto; adds emphasis to a statement

Pull over here. I've gotta piss somethin' fierce!

son---any male to whom you are speaking

Damn, son! That's a hell of a sunburn!

son of a biscuit eater---euphemism for "son of a bitch"

Son of a biscuit eater! I'm late for work.

son of the South---any Southern male with Southern virtues

No son of the South would ever tolerate someone talkin' bad about his mama.

sooie---word used to call swine

SOOIE! Come and get it pigs!

Sooner---a resident or native of Oklahoma

I've never, nor will I ever, be a Sooner.

sop---to soak up

Don't waste that gravy. Sop it up with your biscuit.

Southern cross---the Confederate battle flag, a long time icon of the South

I get all teary-eyed every time I see the Southern cross.

Southern drawl---the slow, Southern manner of speaking; the southern accent

Foghorn Leghorn had a heavy Southern drawl.

Southern fried

Southern fried---cooked
in the Southern style by
breadding and frying

*Southern fried chicken and
mashed potatoes are
standard at any Southern
truckstop.*

Southern hospitality---
exceptional hospitality

*No matter where you go,
you just can't beat that
Southern hospitality.*

Southland (the)---
The South; equivalent of
“homeland”

*It's been 20 long years
since I've seen the
Southland.*

Southron---old spelling
and pronunciation of
“Southern”

*Momma wants me to marry
a decent, hard-workin',
Southron boy.*

sparrow grass---
alternate pronunciation of
“asparagus”

*Mom, can I have some
more sparrow grass?*

speak your piece---
to speak one's mind, to
speak freely, to get
something off one's chest

*Well, you've got my
attention. Go ahead and
speak your piece.*

spell---1) a short period of
time

*Take yer shoes off and
set a spell.*

2) temporary illness or
disorientation

*Ma went to lay down.
She's havin' a spell.*

spiffy---of good quality,
nice looking

*Those sure are some spiffy
shoes.*

spittin' image---

a strong resemblance;
a near replica

*You are absolutely the
spittin' image of your
Daddy!*

s'posin'---pronunciation
of "supposing"

*S'posin' I do help you.
What's in it for me?*

spraddle---

(see "spread-eagle")

*Don't sit spraddle, dear.
It's unbecoming.*

spread-eagle---having
one's legs spread apart

*It ain't fittin' for a woman
to sit spread-eagle.*

spring chicken---a youth;
exhibiting youthful
qualities

*Well you know, Dear, you
ain't no spring chicken
anymore.*

squander---to waste,
to disperse foolishly

*My wife's down at the mall
squanderin' my money.*

squarsh---1) pronunciation
of "squash" (vegetable)

*Eat your squarsh. It's good
for you.*

2) to crush

*The kids are out back
squarshin' bugs in the
flower bed.*

squat---nothing

*I didn't get squat for a
Christmas bonus this year.*

squaw---a female

*Hey man, check out the
squaw at the bar.*

squeeze box---
an accordion

*I use to play the squeeze
box, but nowadays, I'm a
bit rusty.*

squirrelly

squirrelly---silly

Get it out of your system now. I don't want you actin' squirrelly at your sister's wedding.

staggerin' around like a blind dog in a meat house---to be lost in euphoria

Bubba's got it bad for Annie Mae. Anytime she enters the room, he starts staggerin' around like a blind dog in a meathouse.

Stars and Bars---the flag of the Confederacy

Grandpa flew the Stars and Bars over his house for years.

stay---reside

Where do you stay at these days?

step-ins---panties

Be sure to pack extra step-ins for your stay at grandma's house.

steppin' over dollars to pick up dimes---blindly passing up a good thing for second best

I don't know why she ever broke up with him. She's just steppin' over dollars to pick up dimes!

stick in the mud---
a pessimist; a stubborn,
negative person

*Pete: I don't want to go. I hate bar-B-Q.
James: You don't have to like bar-B-Q to have fun at the chili cook off. Don't be such a stick in the mud!*

sticks in one's craw---said
of something upsetting or
bothersome

*My vacation got postponed.
That really sticks in my
craw!*

sticks to your ribs---said
of food that is very filling

*Mom's cookin' sure does
stick to your ribs!*

stitch---any article of
clothing

*She got drunk and before
you knew it, she was
runnin' through the house
without a stitch on.*

stone's throw---a short
distance

*Wanna go down to the
swimmin' hole? It's just a
stone's throw up the road.*

stop light---a traffic signal

*Yankee: Can you tell me
where the RV lot is?
Cooter: Go thataways and
turn left at the third
stoplight.*

story---a lie

*You're not tellin' me a
story are ya?*

**straight from the horse's
mouth**---directly from
the original source

*Flo: Where did you ever
hear such a thing?
Beth: I heard it straight
from the horse's mouth.*

Stretch---a name for a tall,
skinny person

*Hey Stretch, how's the
weather up there?*

stretched---sick, ill

*I've been stretched for a
week and I still don't feel
any better.*

stubborn as a cross-eyed mule

stubborn as a cross-eyed mule---extremely stubborn and ornery

I just can't get that boy to eat his vegetables. He's about as stubborn as a cross-eyed mule.

study on---to ponder; to consider

I been studyin' on takin' a vacation, but I don't think I can afford it.

suckin' heads---the practice of sucking the fat and juice out of the head of a boiled crawfish (see "crawfish")

Aunt Linda liked suckin' heads until the day she inhaled one and had to be rushed to the hospital.

suckin' the hind tit---said of a victim of misfortune

My girlfriend ran off with my best friend and left me here suckin' the hind tit.

sugar---1) a kiss, kisses

Come give your Granny some sugar.

2) term of endearment

Anything for you, Sugar.

sugar britches---a term of endearment

Good night, Sugar britches.

sum bitch---a common pronunciation of "son of a bitch"

That sum bitch stole my truck!

sump'n---a common pronunciation of "something"

Mom, can I have sump'n to drink?

Sunday-go-to-meetin'---
church worthy; of good
quality

Go put on your Sunday-go-to-meetin' clothes. We're goin' to get yer picture made.

Sunshine State---a
nickname for Florida

I think I'm gonna retire to the Sunshine State.

sun-up---daybreak

I want to be in the boat and on the water by sun-up.

supper---the evening
meal, as opposed to
"dinner"

I invited my boss over for supper on Friday.

sure as I'm standin'
here---positively,
absolutely, definitely

JD: *I know a girl who got hit by lightnin'.*

Dave: *Really?*

JD: *Sure as I'm standin' here.*

sure as shit---positively,
guaranteed

That dog loves to hunt. You shoot a duck, and sure as shit, he'll bring it to you.

Sure enough?/Sho 'nuff---
"Is that so?"; "Really?"

PaPa: *Says here in the newspaper that ol' Willie Nelson's in some kind of trouble with the IRS.*

MaMa: *Oh? Sure enough?*

swaller---1) a single
mouthful of a beverage

I know he's only three but one swaller of beer ain't gone hurt him.

2) pronunciation of
"swallow"

Yuck! I think I swallowed a fly!

swamp dew

swamp dew---moonshine

Grandpa's out in the barn cookin' up some swamp dew.

swawmp---common
pronunciation of "swamp"

You boys stay out of the swawmp. There's gators out there.

sweatin' like a whore in church---sweating
profusely

Damn it's hot! I'm sweatin' like a whore in church.

sweet as a Georgia peach---likeable,
pretty, polite

I sure would like to date that gal. She's just as sweet as a Georgia peach!

sweet enough to rot your teeth---said of a very nice
or beautiful female

You're damn lucky to have that girl. She's sweet enough to rot your teeth.

sweet gum---sap extracted
from a sweet gum tree,
as chewing gum

I haven't had sweet gum since I was a little kid on the farm.

Sweetie pie---a term of
endearment

Sweetie pie, could you fix me a drink?

sweet on---to have
amorous feelings for

If I didn't know better, I'd say you were sweet on me.

sweet potato---a yam

Every Thanksgivin' Momma cooks sweet potatoes covered in marshmallow cream.

sweet potato pie---

pie made from yams

*I'm bringin' a sweet potato
pie to the pot luck dinner.*

sweet talk---1) to charm

or flatter

*Maybe you can sweet talk
her into goin' out with you.*

2) flattery

*That sweet talk might work
on some girls, but it won't
work on me!*

sweet tea---tea sweetened

with sugar

*I'll have some sweet tea
and a piece of blackberry
cobbler.*

swig---1) a single mouthful

of a beverage

*Take a swig of this and
tell me what you think.*

2) to drink

Go ahead, swig it on down.

swill---to drink quickly

*I been sittin' around
swillin' beer all day.
And Ma says I ain't
persistent.*

swimmin' hole---a deep

spot in a creek suitable
for swimming

*Momma come quick! Bubba
got bit by a snake down
by the swimmin' hole!*

switch---A thin, green

branch or twig

*Momma whipped me with
a switch for not comin'
straight home from school.*

~T~

tacky---gaudy, distasteful

Mildred wore the tackiest dress to the funeral.

tailgate party---a gathering outside where people park their trucks together and sit on the tailgates; usually in a parking lot on the main drag in a city or perhaps at a beach; also common in the parking lots of stadiums before or after a sporting event or concert

I heard the police broke up the tailgate party after the concert last weekend.

t'ain't---there isn't; it isn't

T'ain't nothin' a little love cain't cure.

take after someone---
to display similar
character traits as
someone

If that boy takes after his father, he won't amount to anything.

take a long walk off a short pier---an insulting command for someone to go away

Ya know, I've had just about enough of your mouth. Why don't you go take a long walk off a short pier.

take a shine to---to
develop a liking for

Looks like the dawg took a shine to your leg.

take down a notch---

to humble someone;
to punish

Willy kept shootin' his mouth off until someone finally took him down a notch.

take leave of one's

senses---to become irrational, illogical, or out of control

I think she took leave of her senses when she started datin' that feller.

take to---to accept or befriend

She took to him like she had known him forever.

take too kindly to---to be accepting or forgiving; to welcome

We don't take too kindly to horse thieves around here.

take to the bank---to

believe in something;
to rely on something;
take as the given truth

No daughter of mine is datin' until she's sixteen and you can take that to the bank!

take up for---to defend

I would always take up for my sister, no matter what the circumstances.

talk a cow out of her

calf---to negotiate well; to be very persuasive

Martha is one hell of a saleswoman. She could talk a cow out of her calf.

talk atcha later---

“talk to you later”

Mom: Call me if you need anything.

Son: Alright. I'll talk atcha later.

talleywhacker

talleywhacker---a juvenile word for “penis”

A boy really learns about pain the first time gets his talleywhacker caught in his zipper.

tan one's hide---
to give one a spanking;
to punish or assault

I'm gonna tan your hide iffen you're not home on time for dinner.

tarnation---a euphemism for “damnation”

What in tarnation is your problem?

tarred---a common pronunciation of “tired”

I'm sick and tarred of workin' my fingers to the bone!

ta ta's---“breasts”; may be considered offensive

What a lovely pair of ta ta's you have.

taters---short for “potatoes”

Ma punished me by making me peel taters all day.

tearin' up the pea patch---
behaving wildly and unruly; misbehaving

I have to go to the store and I don't want y'all tearin' up the pea patch while I'm gone.

teeniney---very small; combination of the words “teeny” and “tiny”

For such a teeniney person, you sure got a big mouth.

tenny-runners---tennis shoes; athletic shoes

I ran so much last week, I wore out my tenny-runners.

That'll learn ya

Tex-Mex---the spicy, Texas version of Mexican food

I'm starvin'. Let's go get some Tex-Mex. I'm hungry.

Texas pinstripe---tobacco spit out the window of a moving vehicle and smeared down the side

I'll let you borrow my truck if you promise not to leave any Texas pinstripes.

thang---a common pronunciation of "thing"

Hand me that thang over there.

thankee---"thank you"

Thankee, ma'am. I really appreciate your help.

thank you much---
"thank you very much"

Joe: This is the best pie I've ever had!

Courtney: Well, thank you much. I made it myself.

thar---a common pronunciation of "there"

I musta stood thar in that line for over thirty minutes.

That dog will/won't hunt---
"That will/won't work."

Kid: Did I tie my shoes right, Pa?

Dad: Yep. That dog'll hunt.

That'll learn ya---"That will teach you a lesson"

Millard: I hit my head on the coffee table.

Willard: Well, that'll learn ya not to wrestle in the house.

That's how the cow eats the cabbage

That's how the cow eats the cabbage---“That's the undeniable truth”

I don't like it either, but unfortunately, that's how the cow eats the cabbage.

that there---that

That there is the purtiest gal I ever did see.

the big city---
any metropolitan area

Pa's goin' to the big city to get the car fixed.

the Big Easy---the city of
New Orleans

Ever been to the Big Easy?

the bug---a contagious
illness

I feel terrible. I think I've got the bug.

the country---a rural area
away from metropolitan
areas

My grandmother's got some land out in the country.

the crud---an illness;
the common cold

Timmy can't play outside today. He's got the crud.

the evil eye---
a disconcerting stare

My momma's always givin' me the evil eye.

the house---my, our, or
your house

We're headed to the house if y'all want to come by.

the Law---the police; law
enforcement personnel

We have to turn the music down. Someone called the Law.

them---those

Them flowers you got out front sure are purty!

the whole enchilada

them's fightin' words---

“what you’ve said could
incite someone to become
violent”

Jethro: *Your woman's
lookin' mighty fine.*

Cletus: *Watch it now!
Them's fightin' words!*

them there---those

*Hand me them there
matches so I can light
the stove.*

There's more than one way to skin a cat---

“there are other ways
to solve a problem”

*My ride left without me,
but I'll get home somehow.
There's more than one way
to skin a cat.*

these here---these

*These here grapes sure are
mighty sour.*

the shit's gonna hit the

fan---“there will be
an argument, a fight,
or a confrontation”

*The shit's gonna hit the fan
when your wife finds out
you quit your job.*

the short end of the

stick---a negative
outcome, a loss

*In one day, I lost my job, my
wife, and my wallet. Once
again, I ended up with
the short end of the stick.*

the whammy---a hex, a curse, a spell

*That old lady's plum crazy!
She thinks someone put
the whammy on her.*

the whole enchilada---the object(s) spoken of, as a whole

*I went to the casino with
\$5000 and lost the whole
enchilada.*

they all

they all---they

They all went down to the rodeo without me.

they's---1) they are

Your parents called and said they's comin' over around seven.

2) there is

They's no time like the present.

they-uns---they

They-uns won't be here for another week.

thingamabob---a name for an object used in lieu of it's proper label

Do you have any of those thingamabobs for holding corn on the cob?

thingamajig---
(see "thingamabob")

What do you call that thingamajig that hangs from the back of your mouth?

thinks the Sun come up just to hear him/her crow---said of someone who is vain or conceited

She's so stuck up she thinks the Sun come up just to hear her crow!

thin skinned---said of someone who cannot endure the slightest ridicule

Don't get mad. I was only kiddin'. You shouldn't be so thin skinned.

This ain't my first rodeo---
"I've been around",
"I've done this before",
"I know what I'm doing"

Ed: *Are you sure you know what you're doin'?*
Earl: *Hey now, this ain't my first rodeo.*

tie a knot in one's tail

thisaways/thataways---
this way; that way

He was so drunk, he couldn't stand up. He kept leanin' thisaways and thataways until he just fell over and passed out.

this here---this

This here pie is pretty tasty.

through the grapevine---
by word of mouth;
gossip

I heard, through the grapevine, that you're gonna get married.

threwed---1) confused

That riddle threwed me, but I finally figured it out.

2) threw

I throwed Leroy out of my house fer insultin' my wife.

ticked (off)---angry

Dad's ticked off 'cause Mom wrecked the car.

tickled (to death)---to be
very happy or amused

My daughter is fixin' to get married and I'm just tickled to death about it.

tie a not in one's tail---
to impede; to punish

That boy's two hours late. I'm gonna tie a not in his tail when he shows up.

tighter than a mare's ass at fly time

tighter than a mare's ass at fly time---

1) excessively thrifty

I haven't gotten a raise in three years. My boss is tighter than a mare's ass at fly time!

2) extremely tight

Can you open this jar for me? The lid's on tighter than a mare's ass at fly time!

'til the cows come home---

for a long time;
indefinitely

Son, you can bitch 'til the cows come home, but you still have to eat all your vegetables.

tizzy---a fit, a tantrum

Don't get yourself in a tizzy. I'll take you to the carnival.

toad floater/strangler---

(see "turd floater")

Hurry home from school. The weather man said there's a toad floater a comin'.

toadfrog---a toad or a frog

We dissected a toadfrog in Biology class today.

to have a burr under one's saddle---to be agitated, aggravated, irritated, angry

Be on your toes. The boss has got a burr under his saddle.

to have/put one's ass in a sling---to punish; to be punished

Dad'll have my ass in a sling iffen I'm not home on time for supper.

to have the misery in the head---to be clumsy, scrawny, or weak

Poor ol' Bessie never was much good at sports. She's got the misery in the head, you know.

to-kill-ya---a humorous pronunciation of "tequila"

We drank to-kill-ya all night long and now I've got a horrible hangover.

tomfoolery---mischief

You boys settle down. I won't have none of that tomfoolery in my house!

tommy toes---
small tomatoes;
cherry tomatoes

I don't want any tommy toes in my salad.

too big for one's britches---
proud to a fault; "cocky"
insubordinate

You're gettin' too big for your britches. Go to your room!

took ill---became sick

Bessie took ill last month. Doc says she ain't gonna make it.

too pooped to pucker---
extremely tired

I've been workin' all day and now I'm too pooped to pucker.

tore up---1) very upset

Our best milkin' cow died yesterday. Ma's all tore up about it.

2) extremely intoxicated

I've seen you drunk plenty of times, but you were tore up last night!

to send packin'

to send packin'---to end a relationship or to evict someone from a property

Ellie's deadbeat boyfriend wouldn't get a job so she finally sent him packin'.

to speak of---worth mentioning

Cooter ain't got no friends to speak of, unless you count his dog.

tote---to carry

Willy came in totin' a case of beer.

to the gills---overwhelmed; to the maximum; more than enough

I can never seem to get my readin' done. I'm up to the gills in books.

t'other--- "the other"

It don't make no differ'nce one way or t'other.

to think one hung the moon (and stars)---to hold someone in the highest regard

As far as she's concerned, he can do no wrong. She thinks he hung the moon.

to turn yellow---to become frightened or nervous

That dog come a barkin' and Leon turned yellow.

towhead---a blonde-haired person

Melba was born a towhead, but eventually it turned red.

trailer trash---a derogatory reference to someone who lives in a trailer or anyone with a low standard of living or lack of class; may be considered offensive

Momma, Joey said we were trailer trash. Are we trash, Momma?

trashy---disreputable;
in a state of disrepair

*I don't want you hangin'
out with trashy people like
that! You hear?*

tromp---to stomp; to walk
heavy-footed; to trample

*Why do you kids insist on
trompin' through the mud?*

trot line---a length of
fishing line with baited
leader hooks at regular
intervals along it's length
and suspended in the
water with buoys; used to
catch fish, usually catfish

*Fire up the boat. We gotta
go pull in the trot lines.*

tuckered out---tired,
exhausted

*You kids have got me plumb
tuckered out.*

tump---to spill or knock
over

*I tumped over a glass of
juice and stained the
carpet.*

turblanche---white sand
or rock; an area where
white rock gullies
have been created by
erosion

*Go out to the turblanche
and tell your brother to
come home for dinner.*

turd floater---a storm;
a heavy rain

*There's a turd floater
comin'. Go roll up the
car windows.*

turkey fuck

turkey fuck---a negative situation; a predicament

Well this turned into a real turkey fuck! This is the last time I drive anywhere without a spare.

turned around---lost

Sorry it took us so long to get here. We got turned around in Mississippi.

turn loose---to let go; to release a grasp on something

Turn loose of your sister before I tan your hide.

twang---1) a zestful flavor

That picante sauce sure has got some twang to it.

2) a thin, metallic musical sound or timbre

I really love the twang of a Southern guitar.

'tweren't---“it wasn't”

Beth: *Thanks for mowin' my yard.*

Billy: *'Tweren't nothin'.*

~U~

ugly---mean

Now don't be ugly to your sister, Billy.

umpteenth---an undefined numerical amount

I've asked for a raise umpteenth times and still haven't gotten a dime.

unless---unless

I'm not drivin' that far unless you're payin' for the gas.

up air---pronunciation of "up there"

I heard you went to Alaska. What'd you go up air fer?

up and---suddenly

That ol' boy lived on the farm for thirty years until one day he just up and moved to the city.

up a storm---
"with a passion"

Saturday night we kicked off our shoes and danced up a storm.

upbringin'---raised with the proper education of etiquette, morals, and manners

Boy, get your elbows off the table. Didn't you have no upbringin'?

upchuck---to vomit

He got sick during the meeting and upchucked on the Vice President.

up shit creek

up shit creek (without a paddle/with a turd for a paddle)---to be in a situation with no possible good outcome

You're gonna be up shit creek without a paddle when your wife finds out you wrecked her car.

up under---underneath

Crawl up under the truck and see if you can tell where the oil leak is.

used to could---“was once able to”

I can't drink 'til the mornin' light like I used to could.

useless as tits on a boar---of no use whatsoever

I'm gonna have to fire that guy. He's about as useless as tits on a boar.

~V~

Vaminose---alternate pronunciation of the Spanish “Vamos”, “let’s go”; command for one to leave

Vaminose! I’m tired of lookin’ at ya.

Vamoose---
(see “Vaminose”)

We need to vamoose. It’s a long drive home, and I have to go to work in the morning.

varmint---a form of “vermin”; animals, usually small and undesirable

I been sittin’ on the porch all day, shootin’ varmints out of my garden.

veranda---a covered porch

My wife wants me to put a swing out on the veranda.

Virginny---the state of Virginia

Back in Virginny we used to dance all night ‘till the Sun come up!

visitin’---conversing; talking

You’re not interrupting anything. We were just sittin’ here visitin’.

vittles---food

I need to stop at the store and pick up some vittles for supper.

voodoo---Creole form of black magic; witchcraft

To this day, my great grandmother still practices voodoo.

~W~

walkin' on a slant---drunk;
intoxicated

*Boy I was walkin' on a
slant last Saturday! I tell
you what!*

walkin' stick---a praying
mantis

*I caught a walkin' stick
on the window screen.*

waller---pronunciation of
“wallow”; to roll around
in something

*You're filthy! Have you
been wallerin' in the mud
all day?*

warsh---pronunciation of
“wash”

*Can I warsh my clothes at
your house?*

warsher---a washing
machine

*Go take the clothes outta
the warsher and put 'em in
the dryer.*

warshin' powders---
laundry detergent

*On your way home, stop
and pick me up some
warshin' powders so I can
warsh the clothes.*

wash---a place where water
has flowed across a dirt
road, partially eroding it

*If that wash gets any bigger,
we won't be able to drive to
town.*

washette---a laundromat

*My dryer is broken. Can
you give me a ride to the
washette?*

waterin' hole---a bar

I'm goin' down to the waterin' hole to drown my sorrows.

wear out---to destroy
by excessive use

You'll wear out the seat of your pants if you sit on your ass all the time.

wear out one's welcome---
to overstay one's welcome;
to become unwelcome

Your brother has got to go. He's worn out his welcome.

wear the britches---to be
the dominant partner in
a relationship

Make no mistake, Mildred wears the britches in that house.

wear you out---tire you;
spank you, assault you

Boy, you're tryin' my patience. I'm fixin' to wear you out.

Wee (Woo) dogie---
"Man oh man";
"Goodness gracious"

Weeeee dogie! It's mighty hot!

we've howdied but we ain't shook---"we've met
but barely know each other"

Host: *Do you know Beth?*
Guest: *Yes. That is, we've howdied but we ain't shook.*

Well, button my britches---
(see "I'll be damned")

Well, button my britches! What on Earth are you doin' here?

Well, I'll be---short for
"Well, I'll be damned.";
a general expression of
surprise, wonder,
disbelief, frustration, etc.
(see "I'll be damned")

Well, I'll be! I've never seen a pair of eyes quite as pretty as yours.

well hell

well hell---“well, anyway”;
“then again”

*Well hell, I guess I'll call it
a night and go on home.*

Well, shut my mouth---
(see “I’ll be damned”)

*Well, shut my mouth! I
just can't believe she
would ever do such a thing.*

went---“leave”

*Let's went. We're already
runnin' late.*

**went to shit and the hogs
ate him/her**---sarcastic
reply to an inquiry as to
someone's whereabouts

*Mother: Do you know
where you're brother ran
off to?*

*Daughter: He went to shit
and the hogs ate him.*

went to town---indulged in
something wholeheartedly

*Damn, you must've been
hungry. You went to town
on that hamburger!*

we-uns---we

*What we-uns want is the
right to bear arms!*

weren't---wasn't

*What'd you say? I weren't
listenin'.*

wet back---a derogatory
reference to a Mexican
or Hispanic person

*(The use of this term is
often considered offensive.)*

wet behind the ears---
inexperienced, naïve

*I shouldn't have hired that
guy. He's still wet behind
the ears.*

wet one's whistle---
to wet one's mouth;
to drink something

*You ought to wet your
whistle with some of
Grandma's lemonade.*

whar---a common
pronunciation of “where”

*Whar’d you ever heard such
a thing?*

whar ‘bouts?---a request
for more specific
information in regards
to location

*Whar ‘bouts did you say
you shot that deer?*

What can I do ya fer?---
“How can I be of
service to you?”

Store clerk: *Howdy! What
can I do ya fer?*

Customer: *Gimme a pack of
Winstons and a Slurpee.*

Whatcha know good?---
“How are you?”;
“What’s new?”

*I ain’t seen y’all in years.
Whatcha know good?*

what on Earth---
“what” emphasized

*What on Earth are you
doin’ up at this hour?*

**Where (have) you been
hidin’?**---“Where have
you been and what have
you been doing since I
last saw you?”

*Hey, Leroy. Long time,
no see. Where you been
hidin’?*

whilst---while

*Looks like Santa Claus
done come whilst y’all
were sleepin’.*

whippersnapper---
a strong, healthy youth

*I was ten foot tall and
bullet-proof when I was a
young whippersnapper.*

whippin'

whippin'---a spanking

Boy, you're on my last nerve and you're fixin' to get a whippin'.

whistlin' Dixie---bluffing, joking; lying; (see "You ain't just whistlin' Dixie")

You kids go clean your rooms. Right now! I ain't whistlin' Dixie.

white lightnin'---
moonshine liquor

I've been savin' this bottle of white lightnin' for a special occasion such as this.

white trash---a derogatory reference to a Caucasian person

(The use of this term is often considered offensive.)

whitewash---1) a cheap white paint

Son, go down to the store and pick up a gallon of whitewash.

2) to paint something with whitewash

I'll pay you five dollars to whitewash the garden fence.

whitey---a derogatory reference to a Caucasian person

(The use of this term is often considered offensive.)

whole hog---
whole-heartedly

Bubba wants to win this watermelon eatin' contest. He's goin' after it whole hog.

whole shebang---

everything collectively,
as a whole

*The IRS took my house, my
car, and the whole shebang.*

whoop/whup---to beat or
assault; to spank

*He thought he could push
me around, but I whupped
him good!*

why for---“why”;
“for what reason”

Why for you do that to me?

widow maker---a dead tree
branch that falls suddenly

*A widow maker fell on my
dawg. I'm sure gonna miss
her.*

will do---“I will do that”;
an acknowledgment

*Sis: Gimme a holler when
you get back in town.
Bro: Alrighty. Will do.*

winder---a pronunciation
of “window”

*Hey man, why don't you
roll up that there winder?
I'm freezin'.*

wired---finished, solved,
fixed

*I've almost got it wired.
Just a few more pieces and
this puzzle is finished.*

wishbone---a ‘y’ shaped
bone found in fowl that,
when broken between
two people, is believed
to grant a wish to the
holder of the longer piece

*Who wants to split the
wishbone with me?
Anyone?*

woant

woant---a common
pronunciation of “want”

*What do y'all reckon you
woant for supper?*

wolf---to consume hastily

*That boy acts like he ain't
eaten in 10 years! Did you
see the way he wolfed that
food down?*

womenfolk---women

*It ain't fittin' to be tellin'
dirty jokes around the
womenfolk.*

Wonder State---
a nickname for Arkansas

*She's from Arkansas, and
you know what they say
about people from the
Wonder State.*

**won't amount to a hill
of beans**--- “won't
amount to anything”;
“won't affect anything”

*Without perseverance, you
won't amount to a hill of
beans.*

woods---forest

*Don't wander off into the
woods. You'll get lost.*

wore out---worn out,
exhausted

*I've been workin' all day
and I'm plumb wore out.*

wormy---nervous, hyper

*I can't stand wormy little
dogs.*

~Y~

Ya hear?---“Do you understand?”; “Are you listening?”

You’d better write me a letter every now and then. Ya hear?

yahoo---any unexceptional person; implies ignorance or low social standing

Emma ran off with some yahoo from Nebraska.

y’all---“you all”; you (plural)

Are y’all comin’ down for Thanksgivin’?

y’all come---“you all come back and see me again”

Millard: We’ll see you next time.

Willard: Bye now. Y’all come!

y’all come back now--- (see “y’all come”); does not mean “now”, but rather sometime in the future

See y’all later. Y’all come back now, ya hear?

y’all’r---“you all are”

Y’all’r gonna have to move y’all’s car.

y’all’s--- belonging to you all

Y’all’s house is a lot bigger than mine.

Yank---(see “Yankee”)

Pa always said, “The only good Yank is a dead Yank!”

Yankee

Yankee---a person born, raised, or living in the Northeastern U.S.; generally regarded by Southerners as being rude and intolerable

I've only met one Yankee that I could tolerate and he was a mute.

Yankee shot---
an old term for “navel”

I have no idea what possessed my daughter to get her Yankee shot pierced.

Yankeeville---the northeastern U.S., particularly New York City

I have to go to Yankeeville for a three day business trip. That's three days too long.

yay---a description of size usually indicated with one's hands

You shoulda seen the fish I caught last week. It was about yay big and weighed 38 pounds!

yee-haw---1) an explosive vocalization of merriment or excitement

*Yeeeeeeeeee-haaaaaaaaw!
I love this roller-coaster!*

2) sarcastic expression of a lack of enthusiasm

Ma: Your Great Aunt Mildred is coming to visit for a while.

Bubba: Well, yee-haw.

yeller--- 1) a common
pronunciation of “yellow”

*You watch out for them
yellerjackets. They'll sting
the fire outta ya.*

2) scared

*What's the matter, Gus?
You ain't yeller, are ya?*

yellow-belly---a coward;
cowardly

*Come out and fight like a
man, you yellow-belly son
of a bitch!*

yep---yes

*Father: Have you seen my
keys?*

*Son: Yep. They're on the
coffee table.*

yer---your; you're

Can I marry yer daughter?

Yes'm---“Yes ma'am”
(see “ma'am”)

*Ester: You are just a
growin' like a weed!*

*Billy: Yes'm! I eats my
vegetables.*

yes-sir-ee(-bob)---yes,
absolutely

*Bartender: Would you like
another drink?*

*Bar fly: Yes-sir-ee-bob! I do
believe I would!*

yokel---a country person;
one accustomed to life in
the country; implies slow
mentality or low social
standing

*People up North think
we're all just a bunch of
dumb yokels.*

yonder

yonder---area “over there”
to which speaker is
referring

Ma: *Billy, have you seen
yer sister?*

Billy: *Yep. She's yonder
by the fenceline.*

y'oant---pronunciation of
“(do) you want”

*We're goin' fishin'. You
can come along if y'oant
to. Well, y'oant to?*

You ain't just whistlin'

Dixie---“You speak
truthfully”; “You're not
kidding”; “I agree with
you completely”;
(see “whistlin' Dixie”)

Ma: *That is one fine sunset.*

Pa: *You ain't just whistlin'
Dixie!*

you all---you (plural)
(see “y'all”)

*Are you all comin' down
for Christmas this year?*

you best---
“you had better”

*You best hurry up or you'll
miss the bus.*

you'll catch more flies
with honey than you
will with vinegar---
proverb meaning that
one can get what one
wants faster through
niceties than through
force

*I told her I was sorry, and
to my surprise, she bought
me dinner. It just goes to
show, you'll catch more
flies with honey than you
will with vinegar!*

you must not be holdin'
your mouth right---

“You must be doing
something wrong.”

Eileen: *I can't get my car
to start.*

Irma: *Well, you must not
be holdin' your mouth
right.*

young buck---a youth,
a child

*Last time I seen you, you
was just a young buck.*

young'uns---children

*I'm takin' the young'uns to
the movies.*

your druthers is my
ruthers---“Your
preference is fine
with me.”

Adam: *Can we just stay
home and order pizza?*

Eve: *Of course. Your
druthers is my ruthers.*

your go---your turn

*Pay attention to the game.
It's your go.*

yourn---belonging to you

*This one is mine and that
one is yourn.*

you talk about---
expression used to add
emphasis to a statement

*I shot myself in the foot
once. You talk about pain!
I thought I was gonna die.*

you'uns---you
(singular or plural)

*You'uns go on in the house
and get washed up for
supper.*

~Z~

zilcher---a stick wrapped with plastic (milk jug, cellophane, etc.) on one end, and held over a fire until the plastic melts and drips producing a “zipping” sound

Some of my fondest memories are of sittin' around campfires makin' zilchers.

Zydeco---a Cajun style of music emphasizing the accordion and fiddle

No crawfish boil would be complete without some loud Zydeco music.

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What *is* a turd floater?

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- why you don't want to be the guest of honor at a **necktie so**

and ore!

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“This dog *will* hunt!”

—*Billy Bob, good ol' boy*

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