



UVic Global Community

International Student Services

Commonly used Canadian-English Slang and Phrases

- **To ace (something)** – to do something really well, or perfectly *“I aced my exam this morning”*
- **a-game** – your best effort/performance, used with ‘to bring’ *“Mike brought his a-game at basketball last night”*
- **All nighter** – to pull an all nighter, to stay up very late or all night *“I pulled an all nighter last night studying for my biology exam”*
- **To be all ears** – to listen with your full attention *“I’m sorry I was busy earlier, but now I am all ears if you want to tell me about what’s bothering you?”*
- **Amped/pumped** – to be really excited *“I am so amped/pumped to go to the concert this weekend”*
- **ASAP** – abbreviation for ‘As Soon As Possible’ *“I need to call my parents ASAP”*
- **To bail (on someone/something)** – to cancel plans, typically last minute *“I was supposed to meet Angie, but she bailed on me”*
- **Basic** – adjective for someone/something that is only following what is popular or trendy, negative connotations but can be used in a joking/teasing way *“Whenever I wear my new white runners, I feel so basic.”*
- **Beat** – to be really tired *“I’m really beat because I went for a run today”*
- **To Binge** – commonly used for watching a tv series in quick succession *“I binged Stranger Things this weekend, and now I don’t know what to watch.”*, or to eat something in excess
- **The boonies** – a remote location in the countryside, far away from any cities *“Is Josh from Port Hardy?” “Ya, he is from the boonies.”*

- **Canadian tuxedo** – when someone wears a denim/jean jacket and denim/jean pants at the same time *“Amy is wearing a Canadian tuxedo today.”*
- **Canuck** – the name of Vancouver’s hockey team, but also used to refer to anyone who is Canadian *“I’ve been living in New York for four years, but I am still a canuck at heart”*
- **‘Cause** – shortened version of ‘because’ *“I didn’t go to the gym today ‘cause I was feeling sick”*
- **Chirping/beaking** – making fun of someone/taunting/insulting, often used in sports contexts or video games *“Tomas was chirping me so much when we were playing Call of Duty last night”*
- **Clicks** – used in place of kilometres *“The ferry terminal is 30 clicks from the university”*
- **Close call** – something that is narrowly avoided, typically something bad/negative *“That car almost hit us, it was a really close call”*
- **To cram** – to study a lot, typically last minute *“I was at a party last night and didn’t study so I really need to cram for my final tomorrow”*
- **To crash** – to fall asleep, at someone else’s house unplanned, or from extreme exhaustion *“I think I missed the last bus back to campus, do you mind if I crash at your house tonight?”* or *“I was so tired when I got home I just crashed right away”*
- **Darts** – cigarettes *“Scott went out to buy darts”*
- **Decked out** – dressed up in a fancy way *“Salma is all decked out for her date tonight”*
- **Dinged** – can be used for when you get a small dent in your car, or you get fined for something *“I dinged my car on a pole yesterday”* or *“Carrie got dinged for driving over the speed limit”*
- **To dip** – to leave somewhere, usually suddenly *“I’m not having a very fun time at this party so I’m going to dip”*
- **Double double** – a cup of coffee with two servings of sugar and cream *“I went to Tim Hortons and got a double double”*
- **To be down** – to show interest in wanting to do something *“Do you want to go to Mystic Beach with me this weekend?”* *“I’d be down!”* meaning *“I’d like to do that!”* without

making official plans. Occasionally one might answer over texting *"Do you want to go to Mystic Beach with me this weekend?"* with simply *"Down!"* or *"I'm so down!"*

- **To dump (someone)** – to end a romantic relationship with someone, to break up with someone *"I think Jessica just dumped Matt"*
- **Dunno/I dunno** – contraction of 'I do not know' *"Where did you put your phone?" "I dunno"*
- **Eh/Hey** – very Canadian slang, used typically at the end of a sentence meaning 'right/correct/do you agree?'. 'Hey' is used more commonly than 'eh' in BC. *"It has been such a cold winter this year, hey?"*
- **Ex** – commonly used instead of saying ex-girlfriend, or ex-boyfriend *"I ran into my ex this weekend at the gym, it was really awkward"*
- **Feel free (to do something)/go ahead** - you can do what you would like to *"can I borrow your textbook today?" "Of course, feel free." Or "Do you mind if I ask you a question?" "Go ahead"*
- **To Feel like (doing something)** – to want to do something *"I really feel like going for a run right now." Or "Do you feel like going to karaoke tonight?" "No, I don't really feel like it"*
- **For sure** – of course, without a doubt *"Do you want to go get a coffee in the SUB?" "For sure!"*
- **For real/seriously** – usually used for emphasis as a question when the answer is already clear to show excitement, disappointment or commiseration *"I just found out I got 94% on my test last week!" "For real?! That's awesome!"*
- **Put up a front/fronting** – to be acting like something you aren't, or trying to show off or being fake *"He seemed really nice when I first met him, but I feel like he was just fronting"*
- **Get together** – to plan to meet up with someone *"Do you have plans on Tuesday? Would you want to get together then?" "Yes, let's get together on Tuesday"*

- **Gonna** – contraction of ‘going to’ *“Have you been to the inner harbour yet downtown?”*
“No, but I’m gonna go on Saturday with Morganne” or *“I’m gonna do so good on my test today, I studied all weekend”*
- **Gong show** – an event, or time that was wild, confusing or a big mess *“I was supposed to meet Jordan downtown at 8, but he thought we were meeting on campus at 9, it was a bit of a gong show”*
- **Grab a bite (to eat)** – to get something to eat *“I will meet you in 30 minutes, I’m just going to grab a bite first”*
- **Hang out** – to spend time, typically in a casual or relaxing way *“I was hanging out with Emily when I tried bubble tea for the first time”* or *“Hey Milo, do you want to hang out today?”*
- **To be hooked** – to like/enjoy something so much that you don’t want to stop doing it *“After watching the first two episodes of Game of Thrones I was totally hooked”*
- **Hit the road** – to start going somewhere, or to leave a location *“We have to hit the road at 7:30 if we want to catch our ferry on time”* or *“I had a really good time tonight, but I have to get up early in the morning so I’m going to hit the road”*
- **I can’t even** – an exclamation in response to emotions, or information, used to express an inability in being able to react appropriately (due to ‘shock’) can be used positively, negatively and jokingly *“Did you see this hilarious video of this cat?”* *“Oh my god, I can’t even”* (meaning it’s so funny) or *“Marty cancelled plans with me again today”* *“Really? I can’t even...”*
- **I feel you/that** – used to show mutual understanding, agreement or empathy from one person to another *“I am so stressed about finishing my math class this term, it’s really difficult”* *“I feel that”* or *“I can’t wait for it to be summer”* *“I feel you”*
- **I get it** – meaning ‘I understand’, to show mutual understanding from one person to another *“I’m so sad that I had to reschedule my trip this weekend”* *“I get it”*
- **Jonesing** – to really want something *“I’m jonesing for a good burger right now”*
- **Kerfuffle** – a commotion, or conflict between people *“When Jordan thought we would meet at 9 and I thought we would meet at 8 it caused a bit of a kerfuffle”*

- **Legit** – short for legitimate, something is real, true or really good “*How can you tell if the website was legit?*”
- **Mint** – meaning really nice, good, attractive or really good condition “*That restaurant’s food is always mint*”
- **My bad** – that was my fault, I’m sorry “*Have you seen my sweater?*” “*Oh, I thought I gave it back to you already, my bad*”
- **No problem/no worries/no big deal/no sweat**- can be used as a casual replacement for ‘you’re welcome’, whatever was done was not an inconvenience “*thank you so much for helping me study today*” “*oh, no worries!*”
- **Out for a rip** - going out for a drive, typically used in the countryside “*I’m gonna go out for a rip*”
- **Parkade** – a parking garage in a city where you can pay to leave your car “*Do you know if the parkade is full? I need to park my car*”
- **To pipe up/in** – to start talking, typically after having not spoken for an extended amount of time, used in a negative context “*Sarah and I had been trying to plan our group project for half an hour when finally John piped in just to say he didn’t like our idea for the project*”
- **Prof** – short for Professor “*I have to have a meeting with my prof this afternoon*”
- **Quad** – a typically grassy area on a campus, the Quad at UVic is by the fountain in front of the Macpherson library “*Do you want to meet on the Quad after your class is done?*”
- **Ride shotgun** – to sit in the front seat of a car beside the driver, to “call shotgun” is to say that you want to sit in the front before anyone else you may be with “*Max can drive us there, but only if I get to ride shotgun*”
- **Rink rat** – someone who is always at an ice hockey rink “*Where is Joel?*” “*You know where, he is such a rink rat!*”
- **Rip-off** – something that is not good deal, or is more expensive than it should be “*That white t-shirt is \$50? What a rip-off!*”
- **The rock** – a BC term used to refer to Vancouver Island “*I’m going to get off the rock this weekend and go to Vancouver for a few days*”

- **Runners** – sneakers, trainers, lace up shoes *“I’m going to go to gym, but I can’t find my runners”*
- **Send it** – meaning ‘just do it’, typically used to refer to something socially risky *“Do you think I should ask that girl on a date?” “Just send it bro!”*
- **Sounds good/great** – a common response to a suggestion or idea that someone may say *“Do you want to go get Thai food before we go see a movie on Saturday?” “Ya, sounds good”*
- **To suck** – to refer to someone/something that is bad, or disagreeable *“Have you started working on the take home final yet?” “Yes, I have, it sucks”*
- **Take it easy** – to relax or a command to calm down *“Are you going out this weekend?” “No, I think I’m just going to take it easy”*
- **Third wheel** – to hang out with two people, typically a couple, and feel like one is tagging along – meaning they do not feel like they have a lot of use to the group overall *“I was hanging out with Marie and Clayton yesterday, but I just felt like I was third wheeling the whole time”*
- **Timbit** – the middle of a doughnut that you can buy at Tim Hortons *“How’s everyone doing? I brought Timbits” *a good way to make friends with Canadians*
- **Toque** – the Canadian term for a beanie, or woolen small brimmed hat *“I bought a new toque when I was in Tofino this weekend”*
- **Twenty-four seven (24/7)** – referring to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – commonly used to refer to something happening all the time, even if it’s an exaggeration *“My upstairs neighbours play their music twenty-four seven”*
- **Under the weather** – to be/feel sick *“Hey Justin, I won’t be in class today. I am feeling a bit under the weather”*
- **Way off** – to be very wrong about something, opposite of ‘being close’ *“I thought the correct answer to the question was 43, but it was actually -4... I was way off”*
- **You bet** – meaning definitely, or of course *“Are you looking forward to reading break, and getting to sleep in?” “You bet!”*

- **To Zone out** – to lose concentration or stop paying attention to something “*Every time I start to do this reading I zone out!*”

No – no

Ya – yes

No, ya – yes

Ya, no - no