

Speaking Outline

Introduction

- I. Picture someone from the 1920s saying 'bee's knees' or a teen today saying 'lit.' Same meaning, different time.
- II. Slang changes constantly. Each generation leaves its mark.
- III. Studying slang shows how language reflects culture and identity.
- IV. Today: where slang began, how it spreads, and what it says about social change.

(TRANSITION: LET'S BEGIN WITH HOW SLANG STARTED AND WHY PEOPLE CREATED IT.)

Body

I. Origins - Slang as Identity

- A. Exists for centuries, recorded as early as the 1700s.
- B. Created by sailors, soldiers, street vendors.
- C. Built for belonging, signals who's 'in the group.'

(Pause - Look up - Eye Contact)

(TRANSITION: AFTER EARLY SLANG FORMED, NEW MEDIA HELPED IT TRAVEL.)

II. Spread - Technology & Pop Culture

- A. Radio, movies, music made slang national.

1920s: 'cat's pajamas' meant cool.

1960s: 'groovy' became a cultural symbol.

- B. Internet changed everything.

Forums/texting: LOL, BRB.

Social media turned slang global overnight.

(TRANSITION: BEYOND WORDS, SLANG SHOWS WHAT PEOPLE CARE ABOUT.)

III. Meaning - Slang as Cultural Mirror

- A. Young people use slang to mark generational identity.

- B. Words reflect bigger shifts.

'Woke' = awareness of injustice.

'Cancel' = accountability culture.

C. Slang captures humor, rebellion, and values.

(Pause before conclusion.)

Conclusion

I. Slang = living record of human creativity.

II. Each generation reshapes language in its own voice.

III. Words change, but the instinct to create new ones never fades.

IV. Every new slang term is language evolving right before us.

***Reminders**

Eye Contact!

Pause for emphasis after examples.

Smile when giving examples, invite laughter or recognition.

End strong.