

5 Modern Slang Terms Your ESL Course Didn't Teach You

Real English for Real
Conversations





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FLEX

- **What it means:** To show off or brag about something you own or have achieved, often in an arrogant way.
- **Example:** "He's always flexing his new car on Instagram."

When to use it:

- Talking about social media behavior
- Describing someone showing off
- Casual conversations with friends

When NOT to use it:

- Formal emails or business writing
- Job interviews
- Speaking with your boss

GHOST / GHOSTING

What it means: To suddenly cut off all communication with someone without explanation.

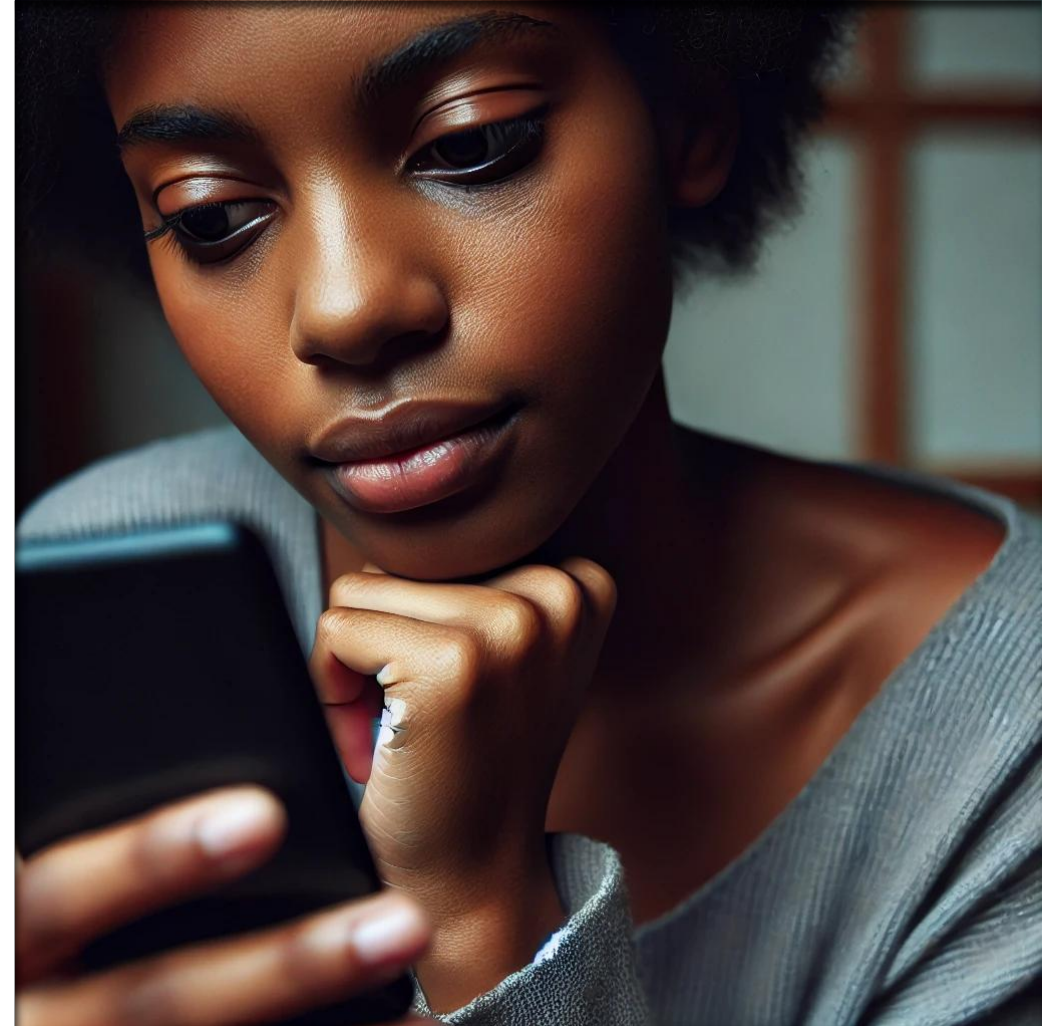
- **Example:** "I tried texting him, but he ghosted me after the first date."

When to use it:

- Dating or friendship situations
- Describing someone who disappeared
- Casual conversations about relationships

When NOT to use it:

- Professional workplace discussions
- Formal contexts
- When you need to be diplomatic





GASLIGHT

What it means: To manipulate someone into questioning their own reality or memory.

- **Example:** "They tried to gaslight her into believing she had imagined the conversation."

When to use it:

- Discussing manipulation or psychological abuse
- Describing someone who makes you doubt yourself
- Serious conversations about relationships

When NOT to use it:

- Casually or jokingly
- When someone disagrees with you
- In lighthearted contexts



CIRCLE BACK

What it means: To return to a topic or discussion at a later time.

- **Example:** "Let's circle back to this during our next meeting."

When to use it:

- Business meetings and workplace discussions
- Professional emails
- Project planning conversations

When NOT to use it:

- Very casual social situations
- When immediate action is needed
- Personal relationships (sounds too corporate)



VIBE OUT

What it means: To relax, chill, or enjoy a laid-back moment without pressure.

- **Example:** "I just want to vibe out after a long day at work."

When to use it:

- Talking about relaxation or leisure time
- Describing hanging out with friends
- Casual social situations

When NOT to use it:

- Professional settings
- Formal conversations
- With people much older than you

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These 5 terms are just the beginning.

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