

Police and Criminal Slang

These slang words and phrases are used by criminals and police officers in the UK. Are there similar slang words and phrases for these things in your language?

Angler: a thief who uses a rod or pole to steal from ground-floor windows.
Bamber, to do a: UK police expression which means to make a mistake.
Blag: a violent robbery or raid; the act of using clever talk or lying to get something
Brief: a solicitor or barrister
C.P.S.: Crown Prosecution Service
Con: convict, confidence trick
Cush: savings to fall back on. From cushion.
Datastreaming: a growing crime where a hacker obtains credit card details to create counterfeit cards.
Down, going: to be sent to prison
End: share proceeds from a crime.
Front: a person with a clean criminal record who provides an acceptable face for a known criminal who is the real owner of a club or business.
Gate fever: the emotion shown by a prisoner nearing the end of his sentence.
Grass: an informer
Hobbit: a prisoner who complies with the system.
Icecream: a narcotic.
Jumper: a thief who steals from offices.
Kremlin: New Scotland Yard.
Lag: a person who has been frequently convicted and sent to prison. Often 'old lag'.
Local nick: police station
Lump, The: building site fraud to avoid payment of income tax.
M.O.: modus operandi. The way in which a criminal commits a crime.
Nick: to arrest someone
Nut: the expenses incurred by a thief setting up a robbery or theft.
Obbo: police observation on criminals.
Padding: unscrupulous police practice of adding to a drugs haul to upgrade an arrest and ensure a conviction.
Q.E.: Queen's evidence. An accomplice in a crime giving evidence in the hope of a lighter sentences.
Ramp: a police search or a criminal swindle.
Shoulder-surfing: stealing pin numbers at cashpoints for use later with copied cards.
Slammer, the: prison.
Snitch: informer
Sorted: everything is organised eg: 'It's sorted.'
Superglass: a very important Mafia informer
Time, to do: to serve a prison sentence
TWOC: to take without the owners consent. A Twocer is someone who steals vehicles etc.
Upstairs: to be convicted at the crown court. The dock is reached by climbing the stairs from the cells.
VPU: Vulnerable prisoner unit, used to keep prisoners likely to be victimised away from other prisoners.
Window warrior: a prisoner who constantly shouts from his cell window.
YOIs: Young offenders institute.
Zombie: a particularly nasty prison officer - more dead than alive.