

The *Roaring Twenties*

Slang of the Era

Slang	Meaning
cat's meow	very sharp
berries	the best
swell	marvellous
big cheese	big shot, a prominent person
all wet	out to lunch
bee's knees	wonderful person
scram	leave in a hurry
flat tire	dull personality
giggle water	booze
gin mill	illegal still
blind pig	illegal drinking spot
speakeasy	illegal drinking spot
gatecrashers	police raid on speakeasy
hi Jack!	thief's greeting to a rumrunner
hooch	booze
splifficated, ossified	drunk
dogs	shoes
lamps	eyes
cheaters	eyeglasses
raz-ma-taz	restless vigour
struggle buggy	a car for courting
upchuck	to throw up
applesauce	nonsense
baloney	nonsense
bunk	nonsense
banana oil	nonsense
horse feathers	nonsense
heebie jeebies	the jitters
hep	wise, "with it"
keen	attractive
kidda	a friendly form of address
ritzy, swanky	elegant
the real McCoy	genuine article
smeller	nose
spiffy	fashionable

Assignment

Write a one page (single-spaced) letter using slang from the 20s about what it was like to live in Canada during that era. Include the following topics in your letter:

- new inventions your family has bought
- prohibition
- what life was like for men and women

(Use the information from Chapters 10 and 11 in your textbook to help you talk about the various topics.)

