

Language 1

Study this sentence:

(She was) sitting opposite some bloke, who was talking noisily and at length into his mobile.

'Bloke' is a slang word meaning 'man'. Slang is a kind of colloquial language which can make speech more vivid and interesting. However, you must be careful not to use it in inappropriate situations. Match the underlined slang word in the sentences 1-8 to the definitions in the box below:

- You couldn't lend me some money, could you? I'm skint.
- Let's go somewhere else for a drink. I've just seen the cops go in there.
- And then she dropped her glass and spilt red wine on their new carpet. She's such a plonker.
- Just a minute! I must go to the loo before we go.
- I'll bring some food if you could bring the booze.
- I think he was a bit pissed. He couldn't walk straight and he laughed too loudly.
- You should ask that guy over there – the one with the green hat.
- Joe's down at the police station. He nicked some CDs in the new shopping centre and got caught.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| a. stupid person | e. stole |
| b. drunk | f. alcohol |
| c. having no money | g. lavatory |
| d. police | h. man |

Language 2

Complete the text below with appropriate forms of the slang words from the exercise above:

I got on the train home the other day and this (1) with red hair got on and sat down opposite me. I knew he was a (2) as soon as he got out his mobile. He rang his girlfriend and started talking to her. The whole carriage could hear what he was saying. After a while I realised he was (3) as well. I could smell the (4) on his breath and there was a bottle of whisky sticking out of his pocket. Anyway, the next thing I know a couple of (5) got on the train and came up to him. They asked him where he got the whisky. He looked a bit embarrassed. So they arrested him because they reckoned he (6) it from a shop just outside the station and they'd got him on the security cameras.



"Spare the price of a cup of tea?"

Discussion

1. Read this short article and discuss the questions below in pairs or small groups:

A 'stubborn and arrogant' airline passenger was jailed for a year yesterday after refusing to switch off his mobile phone on an international flight. Judge Anthony Ensor told the shocked oil worker, Neil Whitehouse, that the sentence was intended to discourage other people who might be tempted to behave in a similar fashion.

- Does the article surprise you?
- Does the punishment surprise you?
- Do you think the punishment is too strict or not strict enough? Why?

2. You have been asked to draw up a list of rules for people using mobile phones in public. Work in pairs or small groups. Think about the following:

- when and where it is appropriate to use them
- when and where it is not appropriate
- the length of calls
- the type of conversations allowed
- ringtones
- possible punishments for breaking the rules