

# Police and Criminal Slang

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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.