



The website of the Black Country Society



Established in 1967 to Support, Record, Preserve and Celebrate the distinct
Character and Nature of the West Midlands area known since the mid nineteenth century as 'The Black Country'



Black Country Dialect

Ackidock	aqueduct
Afower	before possibly from Afore
Agen	again
Airk	as in belly ache, stomach ache
Ait	eat
Aks(axe)	ask
Anunst	against, next to, eg "The housen anunst hisen"
Ar	Yes as in "Ar I am"
Ay or A	haven't or isn't.
Babby	Baby from the Anglo Saxon Babben
Backerds	backwards
Barly	a truce. Sometimes "Arley-Barly" is used. (Possibly a corruption from the French "Parlez" to talk?)
The Baggies	West Bromwich Albion Football Club (not a very good one!)
Bai or bay	am not, eg "I bay gooin' ter tell yow agen"
Bally	Belly, stomach
Bamboozle	puzzle, bemuse
Barmpot	A silly person

Barmy	Daft, silly
Bawk	hinder or confuse. Probably from Balk
Bay or Baynt	am not
Beezum	a broom of birch
Bibble	A pebble
Bin	been, have been
Bist	are, eg "how bist yow?" = How are you?
Bisn't	aren't, opposite of Bist. eg "Bisn't gooin up the shaps?" for "You're not going up the shops?"
Blaberen	to talk idly
Black Bat	Black Beetle
Bladda or Bladder	Balloon
Blart	cry - from "the bleating of sheep"
Blether	to talk nonsense or talk incessantly. "Blether yed" "blether Head" - someone who talks nonesense, a fool
Blobmouth	blabbermouth eg "'Ers a right blobmouth. Tell 'er terday, the world knows tomorrer"
Blubren	crying, eg "Ar kids blubren agen"
Bobhowlers	Any large moth
Boffle	hinder
Bonce	the head
Bonk	bank or small hill. Pitbonk (hill made from mine waste)
Bost	broken or burst, past tense Bosted
Boster	something big or possibly something good
Bostin	Meaning "very good indeed" eg "We 'ad a bostin time" or "Ers a bostin wench"
Bowk	A very large recepticle like a skip
Breffus	Breakfast
Brummagem	Birmingham
Bunny-fire	bonfire
Buz	Bus
Cake-hole	Mouth "Shut yer cake-hole"
Caggy or caghanded	left-handed
Cag-mag	Bad or rotting meat
Camplin/Cankin	talking or gossiping
Cant(in)	gossip(ing)
Catlick	hasty wash
Caw or cor	cannot, eg "I cor goo the'er terday"

Chawl	Pork
Chops	mouth or cheeks
Chimdy or chimly or chimbly	chimney
Chuffed	Pleased
Chuck	Throw
Chuky or chooky	chicken, fowl (children's word) also Chooky Egg
Chunter	grumble under one's breath
Clack	uvula, eg "Just stop yer clack"
Clarnet	idiot, fool. "Yo' daft clarnet!"
Clane	Clean
Clemmed or clammed	starved or hungry
Clobber	clothes or possibly to hit someone
Clomber	climb
Cocka/Cocker	mate, friend
Cockaver	a smack
Codge	a poor job, eg "He's made a right codge of it"
Cog-nogger or Cog-nocker	Thick Sandwich (variation on Noggin)
Coddin	joking, kidding, eg "Goo on, yum coddin me"
Coost	could you ?, also negative "thee coosnt"
Coot	coat
Cootin	courting
Cor or cort	can't
cork-aiver or cog-winder	a good punch
Cost	can you?, also negative "I cosn't" - I cannot
Cotter	have no cotter with 'im (have nothing to do with him)
Crack	fun, entertainment
Craw	crop of a bird, as in "that sticks in my craw" - I cannot believe it
Croddle	huddle together
Craunch	crunch
Cuff	a cough
Cut	canal
Cutherin'	to huddle together, Cuddling
Dahb	Daub, smear
Dare-cent	Dare not
Day	did not, eg "I day see 'im comin"
Desay	dare say, very likely

Dishle	cup of tea
Ditherin'	meaning to shiver with cold, or to hesitate.
Dock	to stop or hold back wages
Doe	do not, reply to question "I doe"
Dollop	large quantity, usually of food
Donny	hand (children's word) Possibly a corruption from the French "Donnez" to give.
Dowl	down, soft hair on the face
Drap	drop
Duck	evade, dodge
Dun	Do, as in "What dun yo want?"
Ess'ole	Fireplace. I think this may be a corruption of 'ash hole'
Faggots	Black Country dish made from pig's organs, onion, sage, bread crumbs
Fairce	Face
Fai(r)ther	Father
Fakes/Fairks	Cigarettes
Fettle	excellent condition
Fittle	Food, victuals
Fizzog	the Face
Flen	fleas
Flics	Cinema
Flirter	Catapult usually made from elastic (rubber) bands
Fode	Fold or enclosure. A back yard to a house
Foggy	First : When children were playing games the first child to shout out Foggy Went first/had first pick, then the next child would have to shout out Secky.
Forid	Forehead
Franzy	Irritable, particularly fretful children
Frit	Frightened, eg "doe be frit"
Frowtsy	Dishevelled
Fust	First
Gaffer	master, employer, perhaps husband
Gamgee	Cotton Wool. From its inventor Dr. Samuel Gamgee, who originally called it "gamgee-tissue." Dr. Gamgee was born in Birmingham.
Gammitin	playing the fool lame

Gammy Gamp	Umbrella (after a Dickensian character named Mrs Gamp who always carried a large black umbrella) guernsey, jumper, cardigan
Ganzy	Go on
Garn	a simpleton
Gawby	an ill dressed person, or to stare, eg "Who am yow gawkin' at?"
Gawk	open mouthed, staring
Gawp	a cinder.
Gleed or Glede	to spit, or the mouth itself, eg "Shut yer gob" or "'Er's got a right gob on 'er"
Gob	Mouth Organ/Harmonica
Gobiron	go, eg "Am yow gooin' ter the flics?" = Are you going to the Pictures? (Cinema)
Goo	"To suck a boiled sweet and rattle it in ones teeth" for example "...'ark at 'er, ers
Graunch	'avin a grate with that sweet - graunchin' it."
	something big, eg "It's a real haiver"
Haiver	The street. "Get out the hoss road!" = Get out of the way!
Hoss road	a brick
Halfender	
	hesitate, eg "Stop yer ivverin' an' ovverin' an' get on wi'it"
Ivver-overver	
	Early morning. 'He was out cootin till jack squalin hour'
Jack squalin hour	death (dead)
Jeth (jed)	brief moment, eg "E woe be a jiffy"
Jiffy "	suspicious, dubious
Joobus	
	Sherbet powder (confectionery)
Kay-li	Drunk
Kaylied	Key
Kay	the lining around a faggot
Kell	Kettle
Keckle	catch
Ketch	the face
Kissa	
	To beat or thrash, eg "Ee giv' 'im a right lampin'
Lamp	Also to beat or thrash, eg "Ee giv' 'im a right larrupin'"
Larrupin /Larussin	upset or excited as "In a bit of a lather"
Lather ladderLather	little

Lickle	as soon as
Lief	laugh
Loff	clumsy, lumbering, eg "Yow big lommock"
Lommock	common term of endearment to children - m'lover
Lover	Ear or ear hole Lungeous
Lugole/Lughole	
	to make wild, annoy
Madden	matron (of a hospital)
Maitrum	hands
Maulers	to chew carefully (as with no teeth)
Maunch	Faces as in Pullin' maygrums = Pulling faces.
Maygrums	Rubbish heap or dustbins (garbage bin) From the Anglo-Saxon for dung
Miskin, Midden or Mixen	to idle about in a bored fashion or search
Moach or mooch	confusion, eg "All of a mucker" can also mean a mate as in "me old mucker"
Mucker	must
Mun	meaning an acquaintance eg What yo looking at mush?
Mush	the face
Mush	to bother, to irritate, or be irritated by
Myther	
	none, not one
Nairun	neither
Naither	tidy, neat
Natty	to find fault in insignificant things
Niggle	known, eg "I've nowd 'im for 'ears"
Node	stupid
Noggen yedded	thick piece of bread or the head
Noggin	new
Noo	"Hav yo no nous?" meaning are you dumb or have no intelligence
Nous, Nowse	nurse, eg Nit Nuss (checked school children for head-lice)
Nuss	
	awkward
Ockerd	old, eg "Th' ode lad" - the devil
Ode	push, eg "Odge up" - move up a bit
Odge	ail making machine, actually the word is from Oliver a spring loaded tilt hammer)
Oliffer	hammer
'Ommer	hand
'Ond	

Ooer	Woman of ill repute, whore
Ood	would
Ooman	woman
Oot	will you
Opple	Apple
Oss	horse
Ote	hold, eg "Ketch ote on it" - take hold of it
O'thatnin'	in that way
O'thisnin'	in this way
Ow	how
Owamya?	how're you?
Ow bist?	How are you?
Owern	my husband, my son, my daughter, often used by women to denote member of family

Pail	Beat as in I'll give yo' a pailin'
Pie-can	Silly, daft as in "Yo' pie-can"
Piece	Slice of bread or a sandwich, often spread with jam or dripping
Pikelet	Crumpet
Pisey	Spitful
Podge	to push in when queuing
Pon	PPan, as in saucepan
Poorly	sick, ill. 'Ers proper poorly
Puk	pick, as in pick up
Pus	purse
Purler	A fall as in "cum a purler" fall down

Reasty	Off, as in food gone bad or dirty as in "Your hands are reasty".
Rennin	Raining
Riffy	Dirty or unclean

Sad	heavy, as in bread that does not rise.
Saft	stupid, soft (in the head)
'Safta	Shortened version of "this afternoon." eg. See ya this safta.
Saided	sated, glutted remains left after rendering lard
Sailin	Ceiling as in "up on the sailin"
Sate	seat
Scrag	To beat up as in fight

Scrawmp	To have a good scratch
Scratchings	Black Country delicacy - pork rind deep fried
Scruppin'	pinching fruit (usually apples) from someone's orchard
Shap	Shop
Sharra	Motor Coach - derived from char-Ã -banc (Drawn wagon)
Sharrap	Shut up, be quiet.
Shed	spilled/spilt
Sheed	to spill a liquid
Shek/Shekin	Shake, shaking
Siden	Out of perpendicular, crooked. aka The Crooked House, aka The Siden House
Siken	to sigh (from the Old English 'Sican')
Skraze	graze, scratch
Scromble	a tangle of wool, string, and the like
Smosh	Smash.
Snap	Food, commonly lunch taken by a working man
Snidge/Snitch	Nose
Spake	speak
Splod	flat-footed
Spockle	to cover with drops of moisture
Spottle	splash
Soople	to soften, make supple
Steen	stew jar or earthenware pot
Suff	sewer or drain, eg "Down the suff" - down the drain
Suck	Sweets
Sup	to sip, a sip, drink
Sustifikut	certificate
Swaits	Ssweets
Swelth	swelling
Swilker	to spill or splash
Swole	swollen
Swopson	a heavily built woman, used in a semi-humorous sense
Tack up	improvement in the weather, eg "It'll tack up tonight"
Tocky-bonk	a pit mound
Tararabit	Bye for now
Taters	potatoes
Tai(tay)	tea, also "it isn't"

Tek	take
Tek after	to resemble, look like physically, mentally, or emotionally
Tewthree	a few, two or three, always used as a noun preceded by "a"
Thaten	that one
Thissen	this one
Thrial	group of three, used only in the card game of Cribbage
Thrape	thrash. Give 'im a good thrapin'
Tiswas	Confused, "getting in a tiswas"
Tizzicky	having an irritating dry cough
Tittle	tickle
Tranklements	small possessions, bits and pieces, paraphernalia, precious possessions.
Trapes	walking aimlessly about, eg "Trapesin' in an' ott like a dog at a fair"
Trussen	to trust
Tummy	a snack, especially a collier's mid-morning snack
Tunky	a fat pig, eg "As fat as a tunky"
Unitick	Uniform
Unkyoothe	uncouth
Volve	valve
Waggin	Playing truant from School
Wag Mon	The council official employed to round up errant children who were "Waggin"
Wammel	A mongrel dog, comes from the Anglo-Saxon/Old English "hwaemelec"
Wassin	Throat. "Get it down yer wassin" From the Old English "wasend" meaning gullet.
Weege	which
Weem	We are. Eg. "Weem gooin out tonight" - We're going out tonight.
Welly	nearly, eg "Welly clemmed to jeth"
Wench	girl, still commonly used by parents towards daughters.
Wenching	The act of flirting, charming and pursuing wenches.
Werrit	worry
Whimsey	pit head winding gear
Wick	Nerves - as in 'Yow'm gerrin' on me wick.'
Wik	week or weak
Woa	won't, eg Yow woa
Wooly	whole, often of a brick : "A wooly 'un"
Wool	will, eg Yow wool

Wommuck	to eat fast "He wommucked that up like he was starvin!"
Wurse or Wuss	worse
Wum	home. "I'm gooin' wum"
Yamp(e)y	Useless, hopeless (as in "He's a yampy player")
Yawle or Yaup	bawl, shout or cry loudly
Yed	head
Yo(w)	you
Yoewer	your



