107 Regional Slang Words - mental_floss on YouTube (Ep. 25)

List Show
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Hi, I'm John Green. Welcome to my salon. This is Mental Floss, and

1. this is a can of "pop" here in the Midwest,

2. or "soda" if you're in the Northeast, or if

3. y'all ["you all"]

4. are in the South, it's "coke," even though it's Diet Dr. Pepper,

5. and possibly even "tonic" if you're in Boston.

6. If you're in England, maybe this is a "fizzy pop" or a

7. "soft drink." Mmm, regardless, I can taste all twenty-three flavors.

And those are the first seven regional slang terms I am going to list for you today. Seven down, a hundred to go. Let's do this.

(Intro)

8. Let's get the controversial one out of the way first: in New England, this is a "grinder,"

9. in Philadelphia it is a "hoagie,"

10. and New Yorkers know it as a "hero."

11. Some New Yorkers may even call it a "wedge."

12. In Australia, when you talk to someone, you're "having a yarn." I know because Crocodile Dundee.

13. The word "wicked" is used to mean "very" in Boston and much of New England. For instance, "It's wicked cold," which is a perfect example because it is always cold.

14. Speaking of cold, in Scotland, "baltic" can mean very cold.

15. In Maine, "dooryard" means the lawn near the house.

16. To be from Indiana is to be a "Hoosier." Although most people here probably identify as Hoosiers, the word's origin is unknown.

17. In the South, when you hear "toboggan", the person is probably referring to a knit cap instead of to the sled that many of us picture.

18. In Canada, this is a "toque." Too-que? Mark is Canadian, and he says it's "too-que."

19. In Australia, a male kangaroo is a "boomer,"

20. and a female is a "flyer."

21. In England and in Ireland, asking "what's the craic" means "what's the plan?" Here in America, the answer to "what's the crack?" is "cocaine baked with baking soda."

22. A "bubbler" is where you get your water when you go to the park in Wisconsin. This one was invented by a water fountain manufacturer in Kohler, Wisconsin, who named one type of water fountain a bubbler and the rest was history. You may also hear that term in Portland, Boston or Rhode Island.

23. "Water fountain" is more likely to be heard in the eastern part of the country but

24. "drinking fountain" is more of a western and Midwestern expression.

25. And if you think that's confusing, what we call streams--? Wha- It's all over the place. Louisiana uses "bayous,"

26. New York has "kills,"

27. and the Southwest called them "washes."

28. Some streams in the Southeast coast are referred to as "swamps."

29. Wisconsin calls them "branches,"

30. New England has "brooks."

31. They're often called a "run" in West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

32. In both Australia and the United Kingdom, "holiday" can be used as a word for any time off for vacation. We just found out that Mark says holiday too but it doesn't matter because vacations are not allowed here.

33. This "bag" of groceries

34. is often called a "sack" of groceries in the South

35. or even less commonly, a "poke," as in pig-in-a-poke. Pig?!! Staff pork chop party fund!

36. In Florida, a "turnpike" is any road containing a toll, but in Delaware and many other places "turnpikes" are just highways. They call their toll roads "toll roads."

37. What much of the US may refer to as a "traffic circle"

38. is called a "rotary" in Boston and some of New England.

39. Speaking of cars, in Australia the hood of the car is the "bonnet"

40. and the trunk is the "boot."

41. In Canada, the one dollar coin is the "loonie"

42. and the two dollar coin is the "toonie."

43. "To rabbit on" in Ireland is to talk on and on,

44. the same thing might be called "havering" in Scotland, in case you ever wondered what that line of "500 Miles" is about.

45. If you're going to the beach, you might be going "down the shore" in New Jersey or Pennsylvania,

46. "to the coast" in Oregon,

47. or even "down the ocean" in Baltimore. And yes, that it true even if you're going north.

48. A living room is called a "parlor" in some parts of New England as well as Pennsylvania and eighteenth century England.

49. In Canada the garbage disposal is the "garburator."

50. In Ireland, someone who's "acting the maggot" is messing around or being rambunctious.

51. Pennsylvanians might call this thing a "gum band,"

52. Northerners are more likely to call it an "elastic,"

53. and Minnesotans might refer to it as a "rubber binder" or even a "binder."

54. Australians equate "to knock" and "to criticize."

55. In the southern US a faucet is often called a "spigot"

56. and less commonly a "spicket." I actually called it a spicket growing up; I didn't know that was uncommon.

57. Also, Southerners sometimes call shopping carts "buggies."

58. On the east coast, garage sales are often known as "tag sales."

59. That little bit or grass between the sidewalk and the street, in northeast Ohio that's often referred to as the "devil's strip,"

60. in other parts of Ohio, the Great Lakes region, and New York, it's the "tree lawn."

61. Other Midwesterners think it's a "boulevard"

62. and Californians might call it a "parking strip."

63. And those weirdos in Connecticut call it a "snow shelf," or if you're me, you didn't even know that there was a name for that thing.

64. If you're in America, these are "Smarties;" anywhere else, these are "smarties."

65. And speaking of delicious snacks, "jimmies" is the commonly used term in Philly and New England for what the rest of the country calls

66. "sprinkles."

67. In Philadelphia, "water ice" means a slushie or Italian ice,

68. A "frappe" is a milkshake in Rhode Island and Massachusetts,

69. and you are more likely to hear "catty corner" in the southern United States

70. and "kitty corner" in the northern United States.

71. British people refer to the toilet as the "loo"

72. or the "bog"

73. and the "loo roll" is toilet paper.

74. In Boston and parts of the southern US, that is a "clicker."

75. Bostonians may also refer to their cars' turn signal as a "directional"

76. or a "blinker," although it doesn't matter because they never use them anyway.

77. Also in New England, the people who slow down all the traffic by visiting in order to look at the leaves changing colors are called "leaf peepers."

78. You're also more likely to hear "cellar" there than "basement." I'm starting to think, New Englanders, that you just want to be different.

79. In Louisiana, a closet is sometimes known as a "locker."

80. If you "put it on the long finger" in Ireland, you've procrastinated.

81. "Pavement" is sometimes preferred to "sidewalk" in Pennsylvania,

82. and while most Americans use the term "lightning bug," Northerners use it interchangeably with "firefly."

83. Midwesterners -- and I promise this is true -- sometimes call green bell peppers "mangoes."

84. Also, you may sometimes hear a Southerner call an avocado an "alligator pear"

85. and in the South, a "tater" is a potato.

86. In Canada, powdered sugar is called "icing sugar"

87. and a donut hole is called a "Timbit" even though it is clearly a-a donut hole.

88. "See-saw" and "teeter-totter" are both used in the US to mean the same thing, but in Massachusetts you can also call it a "tilt"

89. or a "teedle board."

90. Rhode Island, near Agansid Bay, has another name for them, "dandle boards."

91. In Maine, you might hear trash being called "sculch,"

92. In British slang, "flat" means apartment

93. and people who live on the upper peninsula of Michigan are called "Yoopers."

94. And Yoopers have their own dialect, like "bakery" refers to all baked goods,

95. and you might also hear the word "panking" to refer to patting or compacting something down.

96. A potluck is called a "carry-in" in parts of the Midwest.

97. Here in Indiana we often call it a "pitch-in dinner,"

98. our neighbors in Illinois call it a "scramble dinner"

99. and even further north in the Midwest, people call it a "covered-dish meal.

100. In New York and Pennsylvania you might hear "tureen dinner." To use it in a sentence, the best thing to bring to a tureen dinner is half-eaten corn dogs. If you eat enough of them, you will have gigantic muscles like half of this guy.

101. And if you invite a Minnesotan to your carry-in dinner, they might bring what they call a "hot dish," which is another words for casserole.

102. An "eaves trough" refers to a gutter and you're most likely to hear it in the north and western United States.

103. People from Pennsylvania and New Jersey are more likely to call it a "rainspout."

104. A Northerner American is more likely to describe something as

a "pail"

105. than a Southerner would call a "bucket."

106. Snowmobiles are "snowmachines" in Alaska

107. and lastly, Australians do not "set up" appointments so much as they "tee them up."

Thank you for watching Mental Floss here on YouTube, which is made with the help of these nice people.

Every week we endeavor to answer one of your mind-blowing questions. This week's questions comes from avidbrickfilms who asks, "Do our eyes really roll to the back of our heads when we die? Why or why not?"

Yes, but only sometimes. Pupils dilate upon death and the rest of your body loses muscle tension which can result in eyes rolling into the back of one's head. But not always.

P.S. Friendly reminder: Mental Floss is not just a YouTube series, it is also a physical magazine and an online shop where you can get board games and t-shirts and many other things. If you use the code "YoutubeFlossers" you can also get 15% off.

Thank you for watching and DFTBA.