

to be dissatisfied
 to be (un)suitable
 to be in doubt / uncertain
 confusing
 delicate, not clearly seen
 to be necessary in every day speech
 to come across, to meet
 exact / accurate construction
to become an expert in a language

Exercise 29

Here are some examples of slang used in various spheres of life.
 Try to match the slang expressions or words with their explanations.

General:

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|----------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. all ears | a. cause for extreme mental effort |
| 2. big shot | b. fuss or scandal |
| 3. big stink | c. completely attentive |
| 4. brain drain | d. important person |

Computerspeak:

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|-------------|---|
| 1. data bus | a. to start |
| 2. bug | b. computer that is controlled by other electronic elements of a computer |
| 3. MIPS | c. data movement from one place to another |
| 4. sieve | d. software error |
| 5. boot | e. Millions of Instructions Per Second |

Government and politics:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. grassroots | a. purposefully complicated, and often redundant language, usually applied to government and similar bureaucracies; (from George Orwell's novel, 1984) |
| 2. lame duck | b. a term for taking a position, political or otherwise, which is offensive to no one, i.e. politically correct |
| 3. P.C. | c. important government position |

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| 4. doublespeak | d. local constituents, or common people, whose collective impressions form what is known as public opinion |
| 5. plum | e. a politician who has failed to be reelected but still in office |

Military:

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| 1. Fourth area | a. MX missile of the US |
| 2. jam | b. shortened version of Secretary of Defence |
| 3. peacekeeper | c. cause interference to the enemy's electronic communications |
| 4. Secdef | d. space, the fourth arena where war might be waged |

Press, News:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| L Couch potato | a. Well-Off Older person, a person who is over sixty-five and financially independent |
| 2. Yuppie (acronym) | b. spokesperson or commentator |
| 3. spin doctor | c. Young Urban Professional |
| 4. wag | d. addicted TV viewer |
| 5. Woopie (acronym) | e. individual charged with attempting to control the way an issue or event is regarded |

Exercise 30

Read the text and do the multiple-choice exercise following it

Standard usage includes those words and expressions understood, used, and accepted by a majority of the speakers of a language in any situation regardless of the level of formality. As such, these words and expressions are well defined and listed in standard dictionaries.

Colloquialisms, on the other hand, are familiar words and idioms that are understood by almost all speakers of a language and in informal speech and writing, but not considered appropriate for more formal situations. Almost all idiomatic expressions are colloquial language. Slang, however, refers to words and expressions understood by a large number of speakers but not accepted as good, formal usage by the majority. Colloquial expressions and even slang may be found