

Slang Expressions and Colloquial Language

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Refer to *LB Brief* handbook, page 165 (5th ed.) for slang expressions and colloquial language.

- **Slang** is the use of informal words and expressions that are not considered standard in the speaker's dialect or language.
- **Slang** is also the misuse of words and phrases that are incorrect or illogical when taken in the literal sense: **I floated on cloud nine, higher than a kite.**
 - Examples:
 - If you make another **boo-boo** like that, you won't have a job.
 - Do you have a **buck** I can borrow?
- A **colloquialism**, sometimes referred to collectively as "colloquial language," is a phrase that is common in everyday, unconstrained conversation, rather than in formal speech or academic writing.
 - Dictionaries often display colloquial words and phrases with the abbreviation *colloq.* as an identifier.
 - Some examples of informal colloquialisms can include words (such as “**y'all**” or “**gonna**” or “**wanna**”), phrases (such as “**old as the hills**” and “**graveyard dead**”), or sometimes even an entire aphorism (“**There's more than one way to skin a cat**” and “**He needs to step up to the plate.**”).
 - You must write for **clarity** even while writing narrative essays so that all readers will know what you mean. Therefore, do not use slang or colloquialisms.