

# BLUEBEETLES AND BEAN GUNS

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The criminal classes have their argot, closed groups their cant, every vocation and avocation its own special jargon. Furniture salesman speak of borax (cheap furniture), the jeweller of jaggers (cheap watches). The shoe salesman knows that kangaroos are not animals, the circus hand that convicts (zebras) are. It's really amazing how many words of these supposedly private languages the average American manages to pick up. Run down the list. See if you can spot at least one word in each group that you can define. If you can, that's zooly (superb).

ACTORS upstage, blocking, blow up  
 AIR FORCE mach, whirlybird, write off  
 ART CRITICS concrete, abstract, op  
 ASTRONAUTS countdown, blastoff, splashdown  
 ATOMIC SCIENTISTS scramrod, barn, Waldo  
 ARMY yardbird, bean gun, shavetail  
 AUCTIONEERS kitch, lot, knock down  
 BARBERS ducktail, tone up, PVP  
 BARTENDERS freebie, bouncer, boilermaker  
 BEAUTICIANS teasing, frosting, relaxing  
 BELLHOPS front, Higgins, stiff  
 BLACKS righteous moss, pinktoes, peck  
 BROKERS bulls, bears, Big Board  
 CARNIVAL MEN gandy-dancer, geek, barker  
 CAT LOVERS d.s.h., queen, tabby  
 CIRCUS MEN mechanic, Joey, roustabout  
 CLOAK AND SUIT MANUFACTURERS schlep, schlock, schmeer  
 COWBOYS wrangler, pinto, fill a blanket  
 CRIMINALS (AMERICAN) fuzz, heist, take for a ride  
 CRIMINALS (BRITISH) copper's nark, climber, dabs  
 CRIMINALS (CANADIAN) mousefeet, bluebeetles, soup caper  
 CRITICS bomb, sleeper, upbeat  
 DEPARTMENT STORE CLERKS house larries, drek, loss leader  
 DELICATESSEN OWNERS bialy, novy, hero  
 DROPOUTS warehouse, plain chump, one of those  
 DRUG ADDICTS reefer, smack, mainliner  
 EDUCATIONALISTS slow track, culturally disadvantaged,  
 over-achiever  
 FACTORY WORKERS graveyard shift, missionary, goon squad  
 GOLFERS bogie, birdie, duffer  
 GOVERNMENT WORKERS inadvertency, process, finalize  
 HI-FI ADDICTS tweeter, woofer, Quad  
 HOBOES mulligan, bindle-stiff, nose-dive

HOT RODDERS chopping, dragging, slingshot  
 HOMOSEXUALS butch, dyke, camp  
 JAZZ MUSICIANS gog, riff, vibes  
 JUVENILE DELINQUENTS rumble, chicken, shiv  
 KOREAN WAR VETERANS no sweat, bug out, ichi-ban  
 LABORERS scab, fink, wildcat strike  
 LOGGERS whistle jerk, powder monkey, timber!  
 MARINES gyrene, leatherneck, boksok  
 MISSILE EXPERTS beeper, payload, drone  
 MOVIE CAMERAMEN pan, buzzard, iris  
 MOVIE STARS billing, cameo, idiot board  
 NAVY gob, head, scuttlebutt  
 NEWSPAPER REPORTERS bulldog, screamer, morgue  
 NUMBERS RACKETEERS butter and eggs, drop, runner  
 PHOTOGRAPHERS hypo, strobe, contrasty  
 PICKPOCKETS hole, moll buzzer, sneeze  
 POLICEMEN 56, mug shot, buzzer  
 POLITICIANS ward heeler, baby-kisser, lame duck  
 PRINTERS flush, bleed, widow  
 PRISONERS screw, the hole, fly a kite  
 PSYCHOLOGISTS sibling, complex, fixation  
 RADIO ANNOUNCERS break, blooper, sudser  
 RAILROAD MEN gandy-dancer, cinder-crusher, high ball  
 RODEO RIDERS bulldog, california, grab the apple  
 SOCIOLOGISTS outer-directed, pecking order, depressed area  
 SPORTSCAR OWNERS baby, hairpin, Gee Tee  
 STAGE HANDS wings, flies, traveller  
 STEEL WORKERS blooms, billets, skelps  
 STUDENTS cram, flunk, snap  
 TAXI DRIVERS picture, hack, cruise  
 TEACHERS monitor, assembly, floater  
 TELEGRAPHERS bug, 30, night letter  
 TELEVISION CREWS womp, bloom, dolly  
 TELEVISION COMMERCIAL WRITERS cow-catcher, hitch-hiker,  
     residuals  
 THEATRE OPERATORS paper the house, twofers, Borscht Circuit  
 TRUCKERS iron up, eat gravel, tap dancer  
 UNDERTAKERS slumber wagon, cremains, loved one  
 USED-CAR SALESMEN cream puff, lemon, molasses  
 VAGRANTS toot the ringer, John Hollowlegs, slumgullion  
 VAUDEVILLIANS hoofers, top banana, in one  
 WAITERS BLT, 82, burn the British  
 WEST POINT CADETS brace, plebe, feather duster