



STREET TALK-2

SLANG USED IN POPULAR
AMERICAN TELEVISION SHOWS
(PLUS LINGO USED BY TEENS, RAPPERS, & SURFERS!)

HOLLYWOOD

DAVID BURKE

CASSETTE OFFER
DETAILS INSIDE



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David Burke

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preface



For years, parents have had the same complaint: “*I can’t understand what my teenagers are saying!*” which is exactly how they want it. But parents are relentless. They keep trying to decipher their teen’s jargon in order to bridge the communication gap and simply to be kept out of the dark. But it may seem easier than it looks.

The parent, desperate to unravel this mysterious teen lingo, overhears a conversation that his/her offspring is having on the phone:

*“Hey, **brah!** You looked way **dope** in that **fly** hat when we were out **cruisin’** today. Oh, no! I’m late for class! I’m **breakin’ out!**”*

That wasn’t so hard. Having comprehended every word, the unsuspecting parent walks away smugly pleased to have finally broken through the language barrier, believing to have understood:

*“Hey, my **bra!** You looked like an **idiot** in that **pilot’s** hat when we were out **sailing** today. Oh, no! I’m late for class! My **skin is erupting!**”*

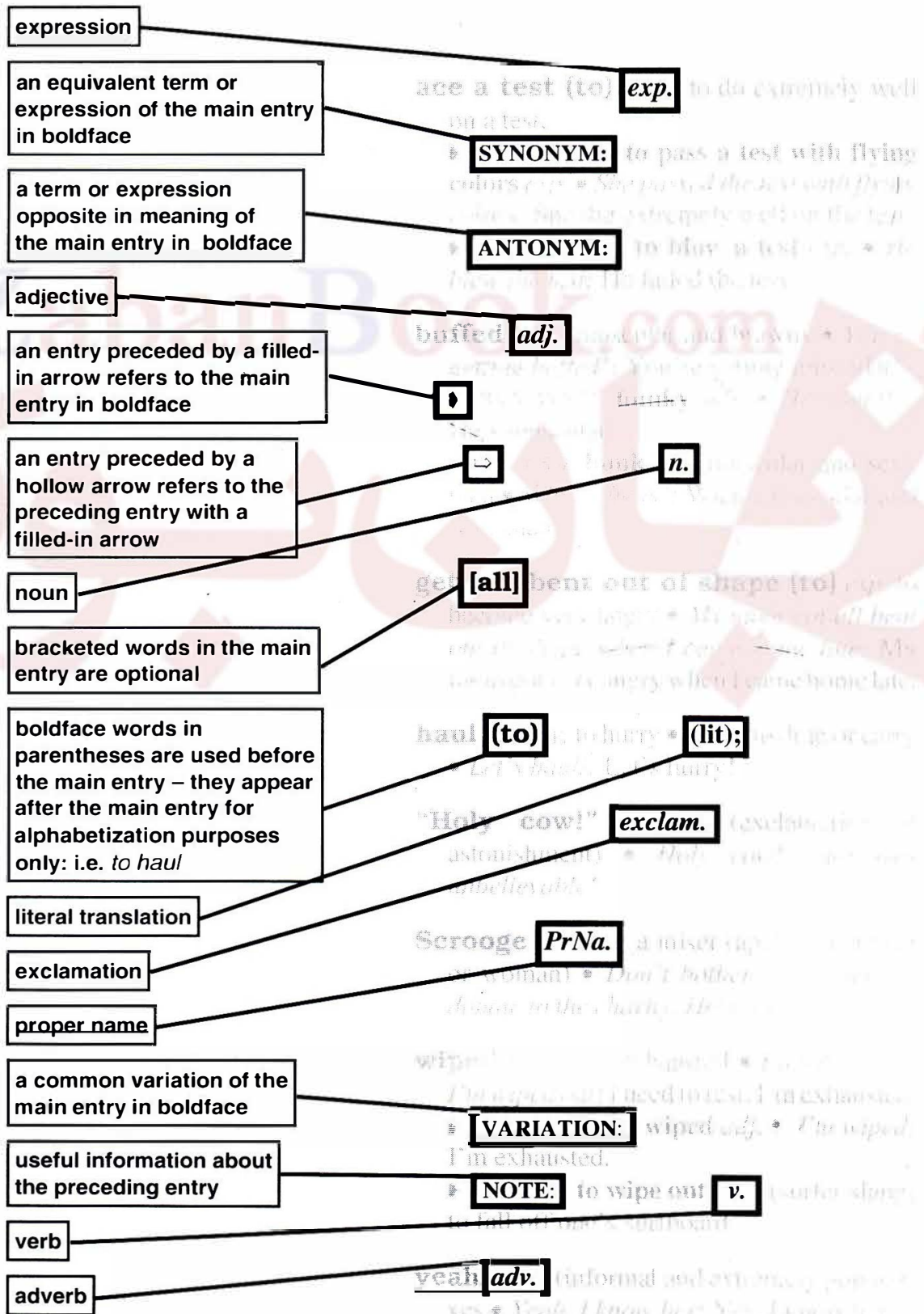
What the teen really said was:

*“Hey, **friend!** You looked really **great** in that **fantastic** hat when we were out **looking for girls** today. Oh, no! I’m late for class! I’d **better leave right away!**”*

To further complicate the parent’s burden of comprehension, there are two other types of slang that are becoming increasingly popular among teens; *rap slang* and *surfer slang*. Rap and surfer slang are heard not just in daily conversations between members of the younger generation, but on prime time American television and radio as well. In fact, television besieges the viewers with this type of slang every Saturday morning when the majority of its viewers are youngsters and teenagers.

STREET TALK -2 takes a close look at teen, rap, and surfer slang, as well as everyday slang used consistently in popular American television shows, traffic reports, news broadcasts, television weather reports, and sports broadcasts, which are of special importance to non-native speakers who are trying to integrate into our culture.

legend



contents

LESSON 1	Slang Used in TV Comedies (At the Nightclub)	1
	Vocabulary	5
	Practice the Vocabulary	8
A Closer Look:	Entertainment Slang	13
LESSON 2	More Slang Used in TV Comedies (The New Neighbors)	21
	Vocabulary	25
	Practice the Vocabulary	29
A Closer Look:	Exclamations and Sounds Used in Comic Books and Cartoons	33
LESSON 3	Slang Used in TV Dramas (In the Hospital)	37
	Vocabulary	41
	Practice the Vocabulary	45
A Closer Look (1):	Baby Talk Slang	48
A Closer Look (2):	Common Formulae for Speaking Baby Talk	52

Slang used in T.V. Comedies

– At the Nightclub –



Lesson One- SLANG USED IN T.V. COMEDIES



Dialogue In Slang

At the Nightclub

DIALOGUE

Neil brings his younger brother, John, to a nightclub for the first time.

Neil: What are you wearing that **getup** for? You really look **geeky**.

John: **That tears it! Catch ya later.**

Neil: Okay, okay! Don't **flip out**. Look, we'll just **hang** here for a while... this is the best spot to **pick up chicks**.

John: What do I do if one **gives me the eye**?

Neil: **Get with the program!** Just go up and **dialogue** her. **No biggy!**

John: **No way, José!** I'd **chicken out**. Don't you ever get scared of girls?

Neil: Never! Okay, I'm getting you a drink... a vodka **rocks**. How does that **sound**? I guarantee it'll **do the trick**. Actually, maybe you should have it **straight up**. I think you need to get yourself **faced**.

John: Oh, great. I'll get totally **plastered**, walk right up to her then **toss my cookies** right on her foot. Do we have to **stick around** here?

Neil: **Mellow out!** We're staying here all night.

John: Hey, Neil... isn't that the girl who had a **mad crush** on you? You know, the one you **blew off** in order to take out her roommate? I never saw anyone so **teed off** before. Man, has she ever gotten big!

Neil: She's a weight lifting **buff**. If she **spots** me here, **my goose is cooked**. Hey, she's coming this way! **Yike!** Let's get out of here!

John: **Hold on!** What was that about never being scared of a girl?

Neil: Only the kind that can't **knock my block off**. Come on, let's **beat it!**

Lesson One- SLANG USED IN T.V. COMEDIES

Translation of dialogue in standard English

At the Nightclub

DIALOGUE

Neil brings his younger brother, John, to a nightclub for the first time.

- Neil: What are you wearing that **outfit** for? You really look **ridiculous**.
- John: **That's all I can tolerate! See you later.**
- Neil: Okay, okay! Don't **get upset**. Look, we'll just **pass time** here for a while... this is the best spot to **look for women**.
- John: What do I do if one **flirts with me**?
- Neil: **Get up-to-date!** Just go up and **talk to** her. **It's not a big problem!**
- John: **Absolutely not!** I'd **lose my courage**. Don't you ever get scared of girls?
- Neil: Never! Okay, I'm getting you a drink... a vodka **with ice**. How does that **appeal to you**? I guarantee it'll **have a positive effect**. Actually, maybe you should have it **plain, without anything to dilute it**. I think you need to get yourself **intoxicated**.
- John: Oh, great. I'll get totally **drunk**, walk right up to her then **vomit** right on her foot. Do we have to **stay** here?
- Neil: **Calm down!** We're staying here all night.
- John: Hey, Neil... isn't that the girl who **liked you romantically**? You know, the one you **abandoned** in order to take out her roommate? I never saw anyone so **angry** before. Man, has she ever gotten big!
- Neil: She's a weight lifting **fanatic**. If she **finds** me here, **I'm dead**. Hey, she's coming this way! **Oh, no!** Let's get out of here!
- John: **Wait!** What was that about never being scared of a girl?
- Neil: Only the kind that can't **beat me up**. Come on, let's **leave!**

Lesson One- SLANG USED IN T.V. COMEDIES

Dialogue in slang as it would be heard

At the Nightclub

DIALOGUE

Neil brings 'is younger brother, John, to a nightclub fer the firs' time.

Neil: Whaddya wearing that **gedup** for? You really look **geeky**.

John: **That tears it. Catch ya lader.**

Neil: Okay, okay! Don't **flip out**. Look, we'll just **hang** here fer a while... this is the best spot ta **pick up chicks**.

John: Whad do I do if one **gives me the eye**?

Neil: **Get with the program!** Jus' go up 'n **dialogue** 'er. **No biggy!**

John: **No way, José!** I'd **chicken out**. Don't chew ever get scared of girls?

Neil: Never! Okay, I'm gedding you a drink... a vodka **rocks**. How's that **sound**? I guarantee it'll **do the trick**. Actually, maybe you should have it **straid up**. I think you need ta get cherself **faced**.

John: Oh, great. I'll get todally **plastered**, walk right up to 'er then **toss my cookies** right on 'er foot. Do we have **ta stick around** here?

Neil: **Mellow out!** We're staying here all night.

John: Hey, Neil... isn't that the girl who had a **mad crush** on you? Ya know, the one you **blew off** in order ta take out 'er roommate? I never saw anyone so **teed off** b'fore. Man, 'as she ever gotten big!

Neil: She's a weight lifting **buff**. If she **spots** me here, **my goose's cooked**. Hey, she's coming this way! **Yike!** Let's ged oudda here!

John: **Hold on!** What was that about never being scared of a girl?

Neil: Only the kind that can't **knock my block off**. C'm on, let's **bead it!**

Vocabulary



beat it (to) *exp.* to leave • *We'd better beat it before they come home; We'd better leave before they come home.*

♦ SYNONYM: **to scram** *exp.* • *Let's scram!; Let's leave!*

blow someone off (to) *exp.* to jilt someone • *Did you hear that Jim just blew off his girlfriend?; Did you hear that Jim just jilted his girlfriend?*

♦ SYNONYM: **to shine someone** *exp.* • *He shined his girlfriend; He jilted his girlfriend.*

buff • 1. *n.* devotee, fanatic • *Tom's a real music buff; Tom's a real devotee of music.* • 2. *adj.* muscular • *Your brother's buff!; Your brother's muscular!*

• buffed, buffed out *adj.* muscular.

♦ SYNONYM: **freak** *n.* • *He's a real movie freak; He's a real movie enthusiast.*

catch someone or something later (to) *exp.* to see someone or something later • *I'll catch you later; I'll see you later.* • *I'll catch the movie next week; I'll see the movie next week.*

chicken out (to) *exp.* to become scared • *I was going to ask her out but I chickened out at the last minute; I was going to ask her out but I got scared at the last minute.*

♦ SYNONYM: **to wuss out** *exp.* • *He was going to ask his boss for a raise but he wussed out; He was going to ask his boss for a raise but he got scared.*

dialogue someone (to) *exp.* to talk to someone • *There's my favorite movie star! I'm gonna go dialogue her; There's my favorite movie star! I'm gonna go talk to her.*

♦ SYNONYM: **to chew the fat with someone** *exp.* to chat with someone • *We chewed the fat for an hour; We chatted for an hour.*

do the trick (to) *exp.* to have a positive effect • *I'm sorry you don't feel well. Here, drink this tonic. It'll do the trick; I'm sorry you don't feel well. Here, drink this tonic. It'll have a positive effect.*

flip [out] (to) *exp.* to become uncontrollably upset • *My mother flipped [out] when I wrecked her car; My mother became uncontrollably upset when I wrecked her car.*

♦ SYNONYM: **to wig [out]** *exp.* • *She wiggled [out] when I told her the news; She became uncontrollably upset when I told her the news.*

D. Step 1: Complete the boxes by choosing the appropriate words from the list below.

Step 2: Transfer the letters in the bold boxes in order of appearance to the crossword grid on the next page to reveal a popular American expression which means, "to become extremely angry."

WORD LIST

beat
 flip
 program
 way

chicken
 geeky
 mad
 mellow

sound
 faced
 hang
 cookies

1. to become aware

T	O		G	E	T		W	I	T	H
T	H	E								

2. to become uncontrollably upset

T	O							O	U	T
---	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	---	---	---

3. to get extremely intoxicated

T	O		G	E	T					
---	---	--	---	---	---	--	--	--	--	--

4. to leave

T	O							I	T
---	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	---	---

5. to become scared

T	O									
O	U	T								

LESSON TWO

More Slang Used in T.V. Comedies

– The New Neighbors –



Lesson Two- MORE SLANG USED IN T.V. COMEDIES

Dialogue In Slang

The New Neighbors

DIALOGUE

Nancy and Tessa are talking about the new neighbors.

Nancy: Looks like you **landed** yourself some new neighbors! Okay, let's **get down to brass tacks**. What's the **dirt** on them? I mean, you did go over and **break the ice** already, didn't you?

Tessa: I'll say. I **popped in** on them right after the last **stick of furniture** was lugged into the house. I **sized them up** real fast. **Take it from me**, they're kind of **off-the-wall**. He's okay but as for her, **the lights are on but nobody's home**. I don't mean to **put her down**, but the lady's a **trip**! She's sort of a **cold fish**, too.

Nancy: Well, try to **go easy** on her. She was probably pretty **crazed**. I mean, moving is no **picnic**. Once they've had a chance to **pull it together**, I bet they **turn out** to be real nice. All right. Let's **cut to the chase**. What do they look like?

Tessa: I have to admit it. She's a **knockout**. I'm telling you. She's got a figure **that won't quit**. She's **stacked**. And you should see him...a total **hunk**. He looks like your typical **jock**.

Nancy: You know, I'm starting to **hate their guts**.

Slang Used in T.V. Dramas

– In the Hospital –



Lesson Three - SLANG USED IN T.V. DRAMAS



Dialogue In Slang

In the Hospital

DIALOGUE

Our **soap** begins with Eric talking to the doctor.

Eric: **Give it to me straight, doc.** Is she gonna **pull through**?

Doctor: Well, it was **touch and go** in **O.R.** for a while. Your wife's a **tough cookie**. It's a good thing she's got a strong **ticker**. She'll be back **in full swing** in **no time**. Just make sure she **takes it easy**. She finally **came to** just an hour ago. Why don't you **go peek your head in**. I think it'll **lift her spirits**.

(Moments later, Eric visits his wife's room)

Eric: **Yoo hoo!** I thought I'd **stop by** and **check up** on you.

Monica: **Hi there.** So, do I look like **death warmed over**?

Eric: No, I don't think we'll have to **pull the plug** this time.

Monica: Well, that's a **load off my mind**. So, tell me. How was the wedding? I can't **get over** that I had to miss the day my little sister got **hitched**.

Eric: I don't know how to **break this to** you, but I know you'd want me to **come clean** with you. Your sister got **dumped** at the altar yesterday. The **upshot** is that her fiancé, Gregory, was having a **fling** that'd been **dragging on** for quite a while with your sister's best friend, Rebecca. It was also a **double whammy** because Gregory **knocked her up** three months ago.

Monica: That little **slut!** I'm gonna find them and **blow them both off the face of the earth!**

Lesson Three - SLANG USED IN T.V. DRAMAS

Translation of dialogue in standard English

In the Hospital

DIALOGUE

Our soap opera begins with Eric talking to the doctor.

Eric: **Be frank with me, doctor.** Is she going to **survive**?

Doctor: Well, it was **unpredictable** in the **operating room** for a while. Your wife's a **hardy person**. It's a good thing she's got a strong **heart**. She'll be back **to normal very quickly**. Just make sure she **rests**. She finally **revived** just an hour ago. Why don't you **go say hello**. I think it'll **make her happy**.

(Moments later, Eric visits his wife's room)

Eric: **Hi!** I thought I'd **come over** and **verify your condition**.

Monica: **Hi.** So, do I look like I've **been dead for a while**?

Eric: No, I don't think we'll have **to disconnect the life support** this time.

Monica: Well, that's a **relief**. So, tell me. How was the wedding? I can't **believe** that I had to miss the day my little sister got **married**.

Eric: I don't know how to **disclose** this to you, but I know you'd want me to **tell you everything**. Your sister got **abandoned** at the altar yesterday. **In short**, her fiancé, Gregory, was having an **affair** that'd been quite **prolonged** with your sister's best friend, Rebecca. It was also a **double shock** because Gregory **got her pregnant** three months ago.

Monica: That little **prostitute!** I'm gonna find them and **kill them both!**

walk freely to the next base due to four unsatisfactory balls being thrown by the pitcher, the team will score one more point.

wall (to) *v.* (rap slang) to lean against the wall at a party (instead of dancing) • *Who's that wallin' over there?; Who's that leaning against the wall over there?*

♦ NOTE: This is an updated version of the common expression "*to be a wall flower.*"

♦ ALSO: **to play the wall** *exp.*

wash *n.* (used in all sports) a one-sided game • *Let's leave. This game looks like it's gonna be a wash; Let's leave. This game looks like it's going to be one-sided.*

♦ VARIATION: **washout** *n.* • 1. a boring game • 2. rained out • *We got washed out today; We were unable to play today due to rain.*

way *adv.* (teen slang) very • *He's way handsome!; He's very handsome!*

♦ SYNONYM: **fully** *adv.* • *"Do you like him?" "Fully!"; "Do you like him?" "Very much!"*

"What is your/his/her/their deal?" *exp.* (teen slang) "What is your/his/her/their problem?" • *I don't know what her deal is but she's always angry; I don't know what her problem is but she's always angry.*

♦ ALSO: **"What's the deal?"** *exp.* "What's the problem?"

wide receiver *n.* (football) a player who generally runs down the field with the intention of receiving passes • *In order to be a wide*

receiver, you have to be fast!; In order to be the player who receives passes while running down the field, you have to be fast!

wilma *n.* (surfer slang) *n.* female moron • *Did you see that wilma out there?; Did you see that moronic girl out there?*

♦ NOTE: *Wilma* is a cartoon character from the animated series "The Flintstones."

work a pitcher to a full count (to) *exp.* (baseball) said of a batter who has received three balls and two strikes from the pitcher. The next throw from the pitcher is now critical in determining whether or not the batter will be allowed to walk to the next base or be eliminated.

work one's way down/through/over/etc. (to) *exp.* to approach a destination laboriously • *As you work your way down the mountain, be sure to take the time to rest; As you slowly descend the mountain, be sure to take the time to rest.*

-Y-

"Yike!" *exclam.* exclamation denoting surprise • *Yike! What was that?!*

♦ VARIATION: **Yikes!**

"Yo G!" *exp.* (rap slang) "Hello!" ♦ NOTE: "Yo!" is a common term in the East for "You!" which is used to get one's attention. "Yo!" is considered extremely casual and, therefore, acceptable when used

The non-native speaker's lament:

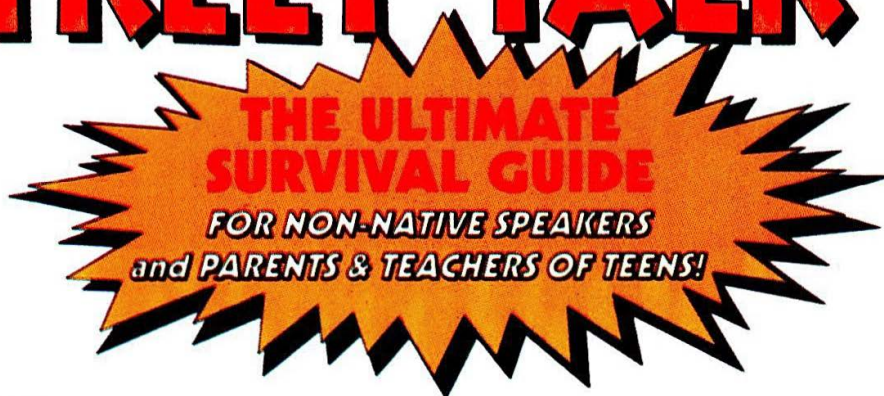
*"What are they saying on American T.V?
That's not the English I learned in school!"*

A parent's common complaint:

*"I can't understand
what my teenagers are saying!"*

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- ☒ **Traffic Reports:** "The **bunch-up** on **I-5** is due to **rubberneckers** **gawking** at a **fender-bender** between a **pick-up** and **big rig**."
- ☒ **Weather Reports:** "What a **scorcher**! This **heat wave** could be a real **doozie** so be careful when **soaking up those rays**!"

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DAVID BURKE is the author of **STREET TALK -1: How to Speak and Understand American Slang**, **STREET TALK -3: The Best of American Idioms**, **BIZ TALK -1: American Business Slang & Jargon**, **BLEEP! - A Guide to Popular American Obscenities**, as well as **STREET FRENCH**, **MORE STREET FRENCH**, **STREET GERMAN**, and **STREET SPANISH**.



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