

## Brit-slang: The board game

<b>Time</b>	40-60 minutes
<b>Interaction</b>	groups of 3-5
<b>Level</b>	B1 (Intermediate) to C1 (Advanced)

### Language areas practised

#### Sub-skills and Functions

- making guesses and inferences
- discussing appropriacy of language varieties

#### Grammar and Lexis

- informal British English
- zero conditional

### Preparation

Photocopy the board (1 per group), and the vocab cards (1 per group). Cut up the vocab cards as indicated. Each group will also need counters and a dice.

### Procedure

1. Hand out a set of vocab cards to each group, and without telling them why, ask them to copy the numbers onto the

reverse sides of the cards quickly without reading what's on the cards.

2. Hand out copies of the Board, the Rules of the game, dice and counters to each group. Learners should read the rules and try to work out how to play for themselves. When they are ready, let them begin playing. Be ready to offer help.

3. When groups finish playing, move them on to the discussion questions at the end of the Rules of the game.

4. Finish with a whole group discussion. Check that they are aware of when informal English isn't appropriate (e.g. exams, job interviews), and when British English isn't useful (e.g. when using English internationally as a lingua franca).

### Note

The informal language used in this game is mainly informal British English, but also includes some mild slang. Make sure learners are aware of issues of appropriacy and relevance. British English may be useful to learners who listen to British songs, read British blogs, or plan to visit the UK, but it isn't of much use to learners who expect to use English as an international lingua franca.

## Brit-slang: Rules of the game

### Preparation

Play in groups of 3-5. Each group needs a game board, a set of vocab cards, a dice and some counters (e.g. coins). Place the vocab cards face down on the board. Make sure the cards are in order, with 1 on the top and 22 on the bottom. Each player places their counter on START, ready to begin.

### How to play

Take turns to roll the dice and move. When you land on a square, read and try to answer the question. The other group members will find the vocab card with the same number as the question. Using the information on the vocab card, they will decide if your answer is right or wrong. If it is right, you stay where you are. If it is wrong, you go back to your previous square and wait your next turn.

### How to win

The first player to reach FINISH must answer one question from the board chosen by the other group members. Obviously, choose a question that has not been answered. If they answer it correctly, they win the game. If not, they must wait their next turn before they can win.

### If...

- If you land on a question that has already been answered, move forward until you come to a question that has not been answered.
- If you land on a question that you have already tried to answer, you must try to answer it again (practice makes perfect!).
- If your group finds it difficult to decide if an answer is right or wrong, ask your teacher.

### Discussion




After you have finished playing, discuss the following questions:

1. What have you been up to recently?
2. Do you know anybody who is a) trendy; b) loaded; c) posh; d) fit; e) stingy; f) a workaholic; g) a chocoholic? Say why.
3. When do you think the vocabulary and expressions on the board will be useful to you?
4. When shouldn't you use such informal British English?
5. How useful do you think these expressions are in a more international situation? Give reasons for your answers.

# Brit-slang: The board game

**How much do you know about informal British English? Play this game to find out.**

You will need some counters, a dice, a set of Vocab cards and the Rules of the game. After you finish, discuss the questions at the end of the Rules of the game.

 <p><b>Start</b></p>	<p>1. Most people know that we use the word <b>cheers</b> when drinking, but what is its more common meaning in the UK?</p>	<p>2. Which is worth more in the UK; a hundred <b>quid</b> or a <b>grand</b>?</p>	<p>3. If someone is <b>trendy</b>, what do they know a lot about?</p>	<p>4. <b>Mate</b> in informal British English usually means "friend" but is it used more between women, men or men and women together?</p>	
<p><b>BRIT-SLANG</b> <b>THE BOARD GAME</b></p> 					
<p>11. If someone tells you they need to <b>spend a penny</b>, what place are they looking for?</p>	<p>10. If someone asks you: "<b>What have you been up to?</b>", should you talk about your age, your travels or your recent past?</p>	<p>9. Which of the following often means "things"? <b>stuff, rubbish, pieces.</b></p>	<p>5. If I tell you my friend is <b>loaded</b>, what does he have a lot of?</p>		
<p>12. The following words are all synonyms, but what do they mean? <b>legless, wasted, plastered.</b></p>	<p>Place the vocab cards here.</p> 		<p>8. What class do <b>posh</b> people belong to? Working class, middle class or upper class?</p>	<p>7. If someone says: "<b>It's up to you.</b>" what do they want you to do?</p>	<p>6. "Our homework was <b>a piece of cake.</b>" How did the student find the homework?</p>
<p>13. If somebody <b>flogs</b> mobile phones for a living, what is their job?</p>	<p>19. How can someone be <b>fit</b> without ever doing exercise?</p>		<p>20. If you're hungry, which do you need; <b>grub</b> or <b>booze</b>?</p>	<p>21. If someone introduces you to <b>their other half</b>, are they mentally ill, married, or a twin?</p>	
<p>14. If someone <b>nicks</b> mobile phones for a living, what is their job?</p>	<p>18. What's the female equivalent of <b>lads</b>?</p>		<p>22. "You're so <b>stingy.</b>" Is this a compliment, or a criticism in the UK? Why?</p>		
<p>15. What does <b>well</b> mean in the following sentences? "I was well tired." "She was well angry."</p>	<p>16. Which of the following is not possible in British English?: <b>workaholic, alcoholic, chocoholic, funoholic</b></p>	<p>17. Which of these is not a common greeting: <b>Hiya! How's it going? Nice one! Alright?</b></p>		<p><b>Finish</b></p> <p>Answer one more question to win! Your teammates will choose the question</p>	

## Brit-slang: The board game - Vocab cards

1. "Cheers" is often used to mean "thanks".	2. A grand (n); £1000. A quid (n); £1.	3. trendy (adj.); fashionable.	4. "Mate" is still most common between men, although this is starting to change.
5. loaded (adj.); very rich.	6. Lads; men/boys. Lasses; women/girls.	7. "It's up to you." means "You decide."	8. "Posh" is an adjective used to associate something with the upper classes.
9. "Stuff" is a very common word in British English used to mean "things".	10. Talk about your recent past. The question means: "What have you been doing?"	11. "Spend a penny" means go to the toilet. It's more common among older people.	12. These words and many more all mean "drunk".
13. flog (v.); sell.	14. nick (v.); steal.	15. well (adv.); "in good health" or (slang) "very".	16. "Funoholic" is not possible.
17. "Nice one!" is not used as a greeting. It usually means "Well done."	18. A piece of cake (idiom); easy.	19. fit (adj); healthy or sexually attractive.	20. grub (n.); food. booze (n.); alcoholic drink.
21. my other half; my wife/husband.	22. stingy (adj.); describes somebody who doesn't like spending money. Negative.		