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CLOCK IT!



JULPO/GETTY IMAGES

23 slang words your teen is using, and what they mean

Jennifer Lindahl
Montgomery Advertiser | USA TODAY NETWORK

If you've recently been told something is "cap," that someone has "no aura," or that a situation is "cooked," you are not alone. You may, in fact, be linguistically outmatched by your child.

Across Alabama, parents, teachers and even older teens are encountering a rapidly evolving vocabulary driven not by dictionaries, but by TikTok, gaming communities, livestream chats and meme culture.

The result is a slang ecosystem that moves faster than any generation before it.

And while every era has had its own language, from 1990s phrases like "da bomb" to 2000s staples like "on fleek," today's slang is defined by speed, remixing and internet culture.

Here are some slang phrases kids in Alabama are using and what they mean.

A quick warning for parents: attempting to use these terms unironically with your children may result in immediate eye-rolling, public embarrassment or being told you are, in fact, "unc."

From 'All that' to 'Lowkey': How we got here

Slang has always reflected youth culture.

In the 1990s, phrases like "all that," "phat" and "talk to the hand" dominated playgrounds and pop culture. The 2000s brought "crunk," "tight" and "bling," while the 2010s leaned into viral expressions like "YOLO," "on fleek" and "savage."

But instead of slowly spreading through music, TV and school hallways, today's slang travels instantly through short-form video, chats and reports. A single clip can turn an obscure phrase into

global slang overnight.

What does "Lowkenuinely" mean? Today's slang decoded

Here's a guide to some of the most commonly used terms circulating among teens and online communities today:

Social and communication

• **Tea:** Gossip or interesting drama being shared. "What's the tea?" or "Spill the tea!"

• **Clock it:** To notice or call something out clearly, often with confidence. The "clock it" hand sign involves tapping the thumb and index finger (sometimes middle finger) together. "They 'forgot' your name again... yeah. Clock it"

• **Chat:** Refers to an online audience or group of commenters, especially during a livestream or a gaming session. "Chat is wild right now." "Chat, can I be honest?"

• **Lowkenuinely:** A blended expression of 'lowkey' and 'genuinely' to express the meaning that something is honest.

• **Lowkirkenuinely:** A blend of 'lowkey', 'Charlie Kirk' and 'genuinely' used to acknowledge something in a manner similar to how Charlie Kirk would.

Confidence, personality, status

• **Aura:** A person's perceived vibe or presence. "He lost aura after that."

• **Rizz:** Charisma, especially in flirting or social confidence. "He has insane rizz."

• **Ate:** To do something extremely well or flawlessly. "She ate that performance." "That outfit ate."

• **Drip:** Stylish or impressive clothing and appearance. "That outfit has drip."

See SLANG, Page 2A

Ivry Hall sentenced in shooting death of student

Shannon Heupel
Montgomery Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

Chicago native Ivry Hall has been sentenced to life for the shooting death of fellow Alabama State University student Adam "Belle" Dowdell Jr. in 2020.

"This is a heartbreaking tragedy that has forever altered the lives of so many," said District Attorney Azzie Oliver in a release. "Two young men, both with bright futures and limitless potential, have now lost the opportunity to fulfill their promise — one through a senseless act of violence, and the other through the consequences of that irreversible decision."

Hall and Dowdell, a 22-year-old sophomore and native of Alabaster,

See HALL, Page 2A



Pope Leo XIV



Trump

Trump's Pope criticism draws response from AL's Catholic Church

Jennifer Lindahl
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USA TODAY NETWORK

A public dispute between President Donald Trump and Pope Leo XIV regarding war-related comments and political statements is drawing responses from Catholic leaders in Alabama.

The Archdiocese of Mobile joined national voices in defending the pope after Trump sharply criticized him in a series of posts on Truth Social.

Here's what to know.

See CHURCH, Page 2A

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