

## Teen Language 101

At 28 years old, I'm still considered a young adult and should therefore be able to relate to today's younger generation. Or this is what I keep telling myself as I am constantly in denial that I am no longer in my teens or in my early twenties?

Unfortunately with every year that passes and every birthday inching closer to 30, I find myself feeling more and more like one of those middle-aged women, still trying to prove she's just as hip (is that in today's teen lingo?) as the next teenager.

I grew up with words like 'awesome', 'cool', 'not!', 'wicked' and even 'no guf'! While 'no guf' is completely out of my vocabulary (although I used it for fun at a pub last night and did get some blank stares from a girl who could have possibly been 19 years old), some of my teenage words are like ticks. They just slip out! I do use the word awesome quite a bit and sometimes the word 'wicked' will slip out. The latter word I admittedly tend to say quietly.

While the lingo I grew up with came very naturally to me, today's teen lingo seems to be a completely different language. Who comes up with "that's sic" or "She's so beezy!" Where do these words come from? Are they developed during parties when kids are having a little too much fun helping themselves to their parents' liquor cabinets? I've learned that saying 'sic!' means it's something great. When I first heard the term I was in University. Still young enough to try out the new slang but even at that time didn't seem to quite get it. As for the word 'beezy', this is supposed to be another word for 'bitch'. I think I like the word 'beezy' better. In a way I wish I didn't know what that word meant. If I overheard some kids calling me 'beezy' I would have taken it as a compliment. I wonder what other slang words I've heard that sound good are actually meant to be hurtful.

The teen vocabulary I really don't understand are sayings like "that's so schizzle" or "schizzle my nizzle". These are not even words! They are completely made up and it makes it very difficult for me to pretend I'm much younger than my age.

I know over the years and through the generations, terms and words have changed. Some have lasting power and some do not. Today's teen language will evolve and unfortunately I will just have to sit back and accept I live in a multicultural country with many different languages. One of them being Teen Language.