

## COCKNEY RHYMING SLANG

Cockney rhyming slang is a pretty simple if somewhat odd affair. It basically consists of a couplet of words, the second of which rhymes with the word you're actually aiming at. For example, the word "glasses" is represented by the phrase "Aristotle Onassis," and the word "look" by the phrase "butcher's hook." To further complicate matters, you can optionally use only the first word of the couplet to refer to the word you're ultimately aiming at - so your Aristotles are your glasses, and you can take a butchers out of them at the scenery once you've put them on.

Cockney rhyming slang is talked about more often than it is actually used. Some phrases are in fairly common usage country-wide — you're quite likely to hear people saying "butchers" to mean "look," or "porkies" to mean "lies" (pork pies), but you're unlikely to hear anyone talking about putting on their Aristotles. I've tried to put the most widely used ones into the dictionary. Whether I've succeeded or not I'm not too bothered; you've paid for it now so I couldn't care two hoots whether it turns out to be useful. Perhaps there'll be more in next year's edition when you buy that.