

Drug Slang: What Parents Should Know

Parents keep asking “what does ‘**420**’ mean?” Do you know? The origins of **420** are disputed, but the meaning is clear—it is a code for marijuana use, seen on T-shirts, posters, heard on the radio, and even in the names of local **smoke shops**, paraphernalia stores formerly called **head shops**. Sometimes **420** is used as a time of day reference, and sometimes as a date. Parents should be especially aware that April 20th is the **stoners’** (marijuana users) **holiday**, so make an extra effort to keep tabs on your kids on **4/20** each year, when students may try to cut class.

420 is just one example of current teen drug slang. Knowing the drug lingo is an important parenting strategy for intervening in destructive and unhealthy choice making by teens.

Your teen’s T-shirt can be a warning sign. One San Diego mom was suspicious about the phrase **Wake & Bake** on her son’s new T-shirt. Her quick Google search informed her that **Wake ‘n Bake** means to smoke marijuana first thing in the morning. She confiscated the T-shirt and complained to the store that sold it.

Here are some other street terms you should know:

- Cocaine: **snow, dust, candy, devil’s dandruff, Coke.**
- Marijuana: **weed** and **herb**, are now more common than **pot, grass**, or **Mary Jane**. A “**date with Mary Jane**” is a plan to use. **Dank** is sometimes used as an adjective—“a **dank** day.” **Blunt** is marijuana inside a cigar, or marijuana rolled larger than a cigarette (called a **joint**). **Baked, stoned, high** all describe being under the influence of marijuana. **Blast** means to smoke marijuana or cocaine. **Blasted** or **lit** means under the influence of drugs.
- Methamphetamine: **crystal, crank, ice, and speed** are most common, but there are more than 170 different street terms.
- MDMA: **ecstasy, E, X, XTC, Adam, rolls**. Ecstasy used with Viagra is **sexstasy**.
- Mushrooms (psilocybin): **shrooms, caps.**
- Salvia Divinorum: **Diviner’s sage, Maria Pastora, Ska Maria Pastora, Sage of Seers**. This powerful hallucinogen warrants special concern by parents because it can be bought legally.
- Oxycontin: **O’s, Ox, 40’s, 80’s, hillybilly heroin, cotton, kicker.**
- **Pharming**: use of a pharmaceutical drug not prescribed to you, sometimes mixing pills, sometimes called **beans**. Watch for DXM in cough and cold medicines.
- Vicodin: **Vikes.**
- **Zoinked**: drugged to the point of uselessness.

You can find a ‘drug slang’ list at www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/streetterms

Information provided by **San Dieguito Alliance for Drug Free Youth**
858.755.6598 phone/fax, SDAlliance4@aol.com, www.sandieguitoalliance.org