

Glossary

a bit of all right	(old fashioned) enjoyable
alas	sadly
baby-grand piano	smallest of long, three legged pianos
big shot	important person
bitter almonds	unsweetened taste of essence of <i>amêndoa</i>
blotchy	uneven marks
brisk	quick, efficient
choosy	not easily pleased
dainty	delicate
dither	unable to decide (what to do)
dotty	crazy
Eton	exclusive private school
five and sixpence	old British money, value about 18 euro cents
frisky	lively
fuss	paying a lot of attention to
glow	giving off a warm light
hearth	place in a room where a fire is put
jack-in-the-box	children's toy where head on a spring jumps out of a box
kippers	a smoked fish (herring)
landing	place where stairs meet in a house
off her rocker	crazy
on the off-chance	by luck
pane	single piece of glass in a window
peeling	layer coming away from the wall
plump	soft
pop	jump out suddenly
pop in	enter quickly, without ceremony
porch	covered entrance of exterior door
rim	edge, side
rings a bell	sounds familiar
sip	drink slowly, delicately (especially when hot)
swamp	overwhelm; too much of something
swanky	expensive and snobbish
teeny weeny	extremely little
tiny	very little
tray	flat receptacle for carrying cups, plates etc
trot	walk quickly (implies unconcerned way of walking)
undergraduate	University student studying for first degree
whiff	slight smell