



“Boston English”

For fun try a little Boston English with our wait staff.

Everyday Boston English	
AHM	Arm.
AJIDA	In the old North End and East Boston Italian-American neighborhoods, agida referred to heartburn or being mentally irritated. From the Italian word <i>agitare</i> which means to churn or agitate.
ANSA	Answer.
AUDER	Order
BAH	A bar, or place that serves alcohol.
BAHF	Slang for "vomit."
BAHBA	A barber, or person that cuts hair.
BADING SUIT	Bathing suit.
BEDDA	Better.
BLINKERS	Automobile directional signals.
BREAKDOWN LANE	A highway shoulder.
BASTON HABA	Boston Harbor
BUBBLER	Office water fountain (bottled). Pronounced "Bubbla."
BULKIE	A small round sandwich bread or "roll."
BUSTED	Caught by the police.
CAH	An automobile.
CHOWDA	Clam chowder.
CON	Corn.
CONNA	Corner.
CUBBID	Cupboard.
CULLA	Color.
DECENT	Cool or Unique; a popular term in the 1970s.
DISINTERGRATED	Disintegrated. Inverse "r" example.
DOOZY BATZ	In the old North End and East Boston Italian-American neighborhoods, it described a person that was fearless or had violent tendencies. <i>Pazzo</i> means crazy in Italian. "Tu Sei" (you are) + "Pazzo" (crazy) is the probable origin. "Du Say Batzo" evolved to "Doozy Batz." How one pronounced it, and one's body language, conveyed how " <i>fearless</i> " that person was.
DUFF	To deliberately avoid a person or break a promise to meet with someone. Old North End and East Boston term.
EASTUH	Easter.
ELASTIC	A rubber band.



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ENVIAMENT	Environment.
EYEIN	Iron.
FOEWID	Forward.
FOILAGE	Foliage.
FOK	Fork.
FOTTY	Forty.
FRAPPE	Pronounced "Frap." Whipped milk, ice cream, and flavoring. This editor used to mix hot coffee with vanilla ice cream and heavy cream back in the old days! Similar to a milkshake.
GAHBIDGE	Garbage.
GAVONE	In the old North End and East Boston Italian-American neighborhoods, it meant someone that was overdressed or completely out of place; from the Italian word <i>Cafone</i> which roughly translates to a loud and obnoxious person. Also pronounced <i>gavoni</i> which is phonetically closer to Italian.
GRAVY	Spaghetti sauce.
GUVANNUH	Governor.
HOODSIE	A small cup of vanilla & chocolate ice cream sold by ice cream trucks. Eaten with a paper-wrapped small wooden spoon that resembled a short popsicle stick. Also (very offensive slang), a teenage girl.
HUSSES	Horses; in the Irish-American neighborhoods it was pronounced <i>Husses</i> , and in the Italian-American neighborhoods it was pronounced <i>Hosses</i> (often with a nasal sound).
ITALIAN ICE	Shaved ice with various flavorings added; also known as <i>Slush</i> .
JIMMIES	Ice cream sprinkles, usually chocolate.
LAYBUH	Labor.
LIBERRY	A book depository or library.
MACKRIL	Mackerel.
MYIN	Mine.
NACKINS	Napkins.
NAYBUH	Neighbor.
NAYCHA	Nature.
NEKKALACE	Necklace.
NO'REASTER	A weather system that swirls counterclockwise over the New England coastline. Such weather patterns can cause huge blizzards or wind-driven rain with accompanying storm surge.
NOTH	North. "R" is silent; add nasal sound.
OVA	Over; as in "Over the Rainbow."



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OUWWAH	Hour.
OVICHA	Overture.
PACKY	A liquor store, or "package" store.
PAHDEE	Party.
PAHDEE PLATTA	A tray of cold cuts sold as one unit; party platter.
PAHLA	The Family or Living Room in a house or apartment; parlor.
PATS	The New England Patriots football team.
PERPERTRATOR	Perpetrator. Inverse "r" example.
PAYPAH	Paper.
PIDJUN	Pigeon.
PIMPLE BALL	A 1950s and 1960s inflated off-white rubber ball about the size of a baseball. The exterior had horizontal rows of bumps, with an embossed star on the top and bottom. Used for handball or step (gutter) ball games. Often cut in half for half-ball games. A popular term in many Northeast cities.
PISSA	Very good; often prefixed with WICKED.
PITCHEZ	Pictures.
POCKET BOOK	A woman's purse or handbag.
PODADAH	Potato; also pronounced <i>Podado</i> depending on your town or neighborhood.
PRIVLEDGEZ	Privileges.
PUNKIN	Pumpkin.
PUSS	To have a miserable expression on one's face; "Why the Puss on your face?"
RAG	To exaggerate; tell ragtime stories.
ROTARY	A traffic circle or round-about.
SATTADAY	Saturday.
SCOOTCH	In the old North End and East Boston Italian-American neighborhoods, it referred to someone that was annoying; from the Italian word <i>Scocciare</i> which roughly translates to the verb "to bother." Also, in old Yankee slang, to scooch was to crouch down. Often pronounced similarly in a way that rhymes with "Butch." Children and pets could be called "Scutches" for example. Irksome is a close match in English.
SCROD	Fish; sometimes haddock, sometimes cod. Originally derived, most likely, by the combination of <i>Scrawed</i> (to cut and then dry) and <i>Cod</i> .
SELLA	A cellar; or basement.
SELTS	The Boston Celtics basketball team.
SHERBERT	Sherbet. Inverse "r" example.



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SHOTS	Shorts, as in cut-off jeans.
SHOUWAH	Shower.
SKEAVE	Repulsive or disgusting (often describing another person). From the word <i>schifo</i> in Italian. Very popular term before 1990 in the old Italian-American North End and East Boston neighborhoods.
SLUSH	Shaved ice with various flavorings added. Also known as <i>Italian Ice</i> .
SNEAKIZ	Sneakers; tennis or athletic shoes.
SODER	Soda Pop. See "Tonic."
SOLDJA	Soldier.
SOLDJIZ	Soldiers.
SOX	The Boston Red Sox baseball team.
SPA	A mom & pop small luncheonette.
SPEEKAH	Speaker.
SPUCKIE	A short, stout French roll with pointy ends; bigger than a bulkie roll, but smaller than a submarine roll. If memory serves, grilled sandwiches such as Chicken Parmesan and Meatballs were popular in Spuckie rolls. A sub would be wrapped in paper, while a Spuckie may be wrapped in foil to keep it warm. Purportedly coined from a North End spucadella roll (citation needed).
SKWAYAH	Square.
STAHVIN	A person that is hungry; "starving."
STAYPUHLA	Stapler.
SUB	A hogie, hero, grinder, "submarine" sandwich.
SUPPA	Dinner.
TEMPUHCHA	Temperature.
TEYEID	Tired; exhausted or fatigued.
TONIC	Soda pop.
TRIPLE-DECKER	3 story wood house, usually all apartments. Also known as a Three-Deckah or Tree-Deckah house.
ULTZSIR	Ulcer.
VARIETY STORE	A mom and pop convenience store.
WEIUD	Weird.
WICKED	Extremely good.
WHIFFLE	A short crew cut, or boy's or men's haircut done with clippers.
WOM	Warm.
WOTTA	Water.



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YAWW	"Yes" + "Yay" combined; very popular in the 1970s.
YAWS	Yours; as in "yours truly" or "your's, mine, and our's" (an old slang cliché).
YOGITT	Yogurt.
<i>Famous Night Spots</i>	
RAT (THE)	A famous metal and punk rock night club in Kenmore Square, short for Rathskeller. In German, rathskeller means "council cellar."
SANDS (THE)	Short for Blue Sands. A famous bar on Summer Street that catered to patrons ranging from punk rockers to artists to blue collar workers (closed).
SPIT	A famous 1970s punk rock & new wave night club on Lansdowne Street (closed).
<i>Famous Places</i>	
BACK BAY	The area west of the Public Garden.
B.C.	Boston College.
B.P.L.	Boston Public Library.
B.U.	Boston University
CAPE (The)	Cape Cod.
CHAH LZ RIVAH	Charles River.
COMBAT ZONE	The old burlesque area of Boston at the foot of Washington Street near Essex Street.
COMM AVE	Truncation of Commonwealth Avenue.
HAHVID	Harvard University.
I.C.A.	Institute of Contemporary Art.
LANDSDOWN	Lansdowne Street, Boston.
MASS AVE	Truncation of Massachusetts Avenue.
M.F.A.	Museum of Fine Arts
PRU (The)	Prudential Center.
QUINCY MARKET	Faneuil Hall Marketplace.
SCOLLAY SQUARE	The old burlesque area of Boston at the junction of Tremont, Court, Hanover, and Cambridge Streets.
T (The)	The MBTA transit authority.
<i>Cities & Towns</i>	
CHATTIM	Chatham, Massachusetts
CONKIDD	Concord, Massachusetts
EV RIT	Everett, Massachusetts.
FLORIDER	The State of Florida.



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GLOSSTA	Gloucester, Massachusetts.
HOPKINGTON	Hopkinton, Massachusetts
INDIANER	The State of Indiana.
LEMMINSTAH	Leominster, Massachusetts
MEDFID	Medford, Massachusetts.
NEWHAMSHA	The State of New Hampshire.
NEWHAMSHIN	A Person From New Hampshire.
NEWYOK	The State of New York.
PEEBAHDEE	Peabody, Massachusetts.
P-TOWN	Provincetown, Massachusetts.
QUINZEE	Quincy, Massachusetts.
RUHVEEA	Revere, Massachusetts.
SUMMAVILLE	Somerville, Massachusetts.
VAHMONT	The State of Vermont.
VAHJINYA	The State of Virginia.
VINYID	Martha's Vineyard island.
WATTATOWN	Watertown, Massachusetts.
WINTRUP	Winthrop, Massachusetts.
WHISTAH	Worcester, Massachusetts.
WOOBIN	Woburn, Massachusetts.
<i>Boston Neighborhoods</i>	
BURRY	Roxbury neighborhood.
EASTIE	East Boston neighborhood.
DOT	Dorchester neighborhood.
J.P.	Jamaica Plain neighborhood.
ROZZY	Roslindale neighborhood.
SOUTHIE	South Boston neighborhood.
TOWNIE	A Charlestown neighborhood person.