

Tekst 12

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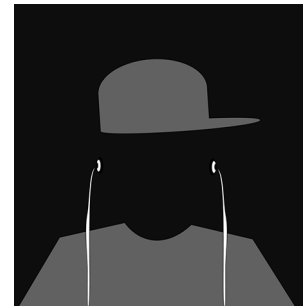
The remarkable history of the word 'hip'

adapted from a blog by Tom Dalzell

For more than 110 years, *hip* has found a prominent place in our slang, reshaping and repurposing itself every few decades to carry itself forward, from the early twentieth century's *hip* to today's *hipster* movement.

Hep or hip

For years *hep* and *hip* were used interchangeably. *Hep* was recorded first, on 9 May 1903, in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*. The 'aware' sense of *hip* quickly grew to include 'world-wise', 'sophisticated', and 'up-to-date with trends in music, fashion, and speech'. It expanded to the verb *hip* in 1932, meaning 'to make aware'. *Hip* may be a simple, three-letter word, but its etymology (when used in this way) is a mystery. Holloway and Vass suggested in *The African Heritage of American English* that *hip* might be derived from Senegalese slaves, for whom *xipi* in their native Wolof language meant 'to have your eyes open, to be aware'.



Hepcats and hipsters

Hep gave way to *hepcat*, meaning a knowledgeable and fashionable jazz aficionado. In the September 1937 issue of *Downbeat*, a caption over a picture showing three male musicians and a female singer reads: '3 Hep Cats and a Hep Canary.' It was not until 1940 that we saw *hipcat*, meaning the same thing. This was also the case with *hepster* and *hipster* – *hepster* first appeared in the title of *Cab Calloway's Hepster's Dictionary*, punning no doubt on the rhyme with 'Webster'. *Hipster* would not appear until 1940, although it would soon outpace *hepster* in popularity. Both terms referred to a white fan of jazz, and usually of jazz played by black musicians.



Hippie



Next came the early sense of *hippie*. In the 1950s, *hippy* or *hippie* took on a somewhat derisive tone when applied to those who posed as *hipsters* but were not in fact the genuine article. The first use of *hippie* in a new 1960s countercultural/flower child sense came in a series of articles on the evolving Haight-Ashbury neighborhood of San Francisco by Michael Fallon which began running in the

San Francisco Examiner on 5 September 1965. Still using *beatnik* in the headline, Fallon used *hippies*, *heads*, and *beatniks* interchangeably in the body of the article.

Hip-hop

A tad over a decade later, *hip* showed up in *hip-hop*, referring to a subculture that originated in the black and Hispanic youth of America's inner cities, especially in the South Bronx neighborhood of New York in the late 1970s. The word *hip-hop*, like many of its slang giant peers, has several claimed parents, but no solid evidence supporting any of the claims. The earliest recorded usage found to date is from nine years after DJ Kool Herc began the experiments that produced the art form, in the 1979 song *Rapper's Delight*, with 'Said a hip hop the hibbit the hippidibby hip hip hoppa you don't stop'. Out of the scat context, the earliest usage is from the 24 February 1979 *New Pittsburgh Courier*, which reported that DJ Starski was "responsible for the derivation of the 'Hip-Hop'."

Hipster



Almost a century into its journey through American slang, *hip* had at least one more life up its sleeve in the form of the new *hipster* movement, referring to relatively affluent young Bohemians living in gentrifying neighborhoods. It is an opaque term, and one which is generally not used by anyone considered by others to be a *hipster*.

All in all, *hip* has had a remarkable and unusual slang life. Slang is usually short-lived and while there are examples of words that have risen, fallen, and risen again (*groovy*, *sweet* and *tasty* all come to mind), *hip* is unique in its ability to navigate 110 years, adding suffixes every few decades to emerge fresh and new. It has been a long and strange trip for *hip*, and there is nothing to suggest that there won't be a new *hip* variant again soon.

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'hip has found a prominent place in our slang' (alinea 1)

- 1p 41 In welke zin verderop in de tekst wordt duidelijk gemaakt dat het bijzonder is dat het woord 'hip' al zo lang wordt gebruikt?

Citeer de eerste twee woorden van deze zin.

Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift.