Collins picks 'mogging' as 2026 word

LEVEL A2/B1


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I. WARM-UP

1. What new words have you learned this year?
2. How do new words enter your language?
3. Do you use a dictionary app? Which one?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

slang
Informal words used by a group, not in formal speech

dictionary
A book or app that explains the meanings of words

shortlist
A final, smaller list of the best choices

outperform
To do better than someone or something

inferior
Lower in quality, status or ability

spread
To move and reach more people or places

advertise
To tell people publicly about a job, product or event

hairstyle
The way someone's hair is cut and shaped

III. READING

Collins English Dictionary chose 'mogging' as its word of the year 2026. The word means to outperform or outshine someone, making them look inferior in looks, confidence or status. It began as bodybuilding slang, from 'Amog' (alpha male of the group), around 2016. The term then spread online and into everyday speech.

Collins said many items on the shortlist showed a feeling of competition. In transport, 'carspreading' describes vehicles getting longer, wider and heavier, as SUVs made up more than half of new car sales in 2025, which made parking spaces tighter.

Politics saw 'Manchesterism', linked to prime minister Andy Burnham, about giving more regional power with economic growth and social progress. Work life added 'ghost job' for roles advertised with no plan to hire; a UK study said about a third were like this. Lifestyle terms included 'bixie', a short, modern hairstyle.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **The Guardian***: "'Mogging' crowned Collins word of the year". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Which word did Collins choose as word of the year 2026?
2. What does 'mogging' mean in simple words?
3. Where did the term start before it spread?
4. What is a 'ghost job' according to the text?
5. Which political term on the shortlist is linked to Andy Burnham?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Do you like the choice of 'mogging'? Why or why not?
2. Which shortlist word do you find most interesting?
3. How do new words usually spread in your country?
4. Should dictionaries add slang quickly or wait? Why?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Superlatives

Superlatives show the top level in a group. Form: the + adjective-est (the biggest) for short adjectives; the most + adjective (the most modern) for longer ones. Use in/of to name the group: the tallest in the class.

"Among shortlist terms, 'mogging' is **the biggest** *buzzword."*

"In hairstyle trends, the bixie is **the trendiest** *cut."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. My dictionary app is (the most useful / more useful) of all. _____
2. SUVs are (the most large / the largest) on many roads. _____
3. A 'bixie' can be (the most easy / the easiest) to style. _____
4. Some posts get (the more likes / the most likes) online. _____
5. Of all options, SUVs feel (the safest / safer). _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.


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I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 8 minutes vocabulary, 10 minutes reading, 8–10 minutes comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 8–10 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach or check: slang, dictionary, shortlist, outperform, inferior, advertise, hairstyle. Drill word stress in longer items.
- Reading and discussion: First skim for the winner and meaning. Then reread for origin and other shortlist items. In discussion, let pairs choose a favourite new word before sharing with the class.
- Differentiation: Stronger students explain a local slang word in English; others write one clear example sentence using 'mogging'.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. If students say just yes/no, ask for one example where the word fits their life.
2. Put words from the shortlist on the board; have students rank them in pairs, then compare.
3. Elicit online, TV, music as channels; push for a short story of one word's journey.
4. Split class: one side argues for fast updates, the other for waiting; then swap sides.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Writing: Write a 50–60 word mini dictionary entry for one shortlist word, with two example sentences.

Survey: In pairs, survey classmates on which shortlist word they have heard or used; make a quick chart and report back.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Superlatives

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Which word did Collins choose as word of the year 2026?
   Mogging.
2. What does 'mogging' mean in simple words?
   To do better than someone and make them look worse.
3. Where did the term start before it spread?
   In bodybuilding slang, from 'Amog'.
4. What is a 'ghost job' according to the text?
   A job advert with no real plan to hire someone.
5. Which political term on the shortlist is linked to Andy Burnham?
   Manchesterism.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. My dictionary app is (the most useful / more useful) of all. **the most useful**
2. SUVs are (the most large / the largest) on many roads. **the largest**
3. A 'bixie' can be (the most easy / the easiest) to style. **the easiest**
4. Some posts get (the more likes / the most likes) online. **the most likes**
5. Of all options, SUVs feel (the safest / safer). **the safest**

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Superlatives show the top level in a group. Form: the + adjective-est (the biggest) for short adjectives; the most + adjective (the most modern) for longer ones. Use in/of to name the group: the tallest in the class. (Examples constructed.)

"Among shortlist terms, 'mogging' is **the biggest** *buzzword."*

"In hairstyle trends, the bixie is **the trendiest** *cut."*