

Jargon

- **Substyles:** computer jargon, jargon of musicians, of sportsmen, of students, etc.; **cant** = the jargon of thieves and vagabonds /‘ain’t a lifer’ for ‘not sentenced to life imprisonment’; ‘get a stretch in stir’ for ‘be imprisoned’; ‘pulling a leather up’ for ‘stealing a purse’/
- a special lexicon to preserve **secrecy** within a particular social group
- incomprehensible to people out of the group, needs translation (unlike slang)
- **old words** with entirely new meaning imposed upon them
- some words have become legitimate English words /‘kid, fun, humbug’/