

THIEVES' CANT

BAD WEATHER

[non-countable noun]: a big score; a dangerous plan
"Bad weather is coming up." (We're about to do a big score.)

BUGSKOT

[non-countable noun]: death
"Bugskot is coming for us all" (Death is coming for us all.)

TO BE CAUGHT WITH YOUR COLLAR UP

[expression]: to be caught betraying your own crew.
"Don't get caught with your collar up." (Don't let anyone in the crew find out what you're doing.)

CHAIN(S)

[non-countable noun]: the time you have to make a payment, not be confused with 11:00pm. Used in speech as though talking about an object, but actually referring to making a payment on time.
"It's almost chain hour." (It's almost time when payment is due.)

VARIATIONS:

- ◆ **gold chain / heavy chain** [adjective]: a very large amount of money
- ◆ **missing link** [countable noun]: a missed drop

TO BE DRINKING WATER

[expression]: a warning that someone is close to uncovering the truth
"The Watch Commander's drinking water." (The Watch Commander is going to find out what you've been up to.)

HOW'S YOUR COAT?

[expression]: a greeting used to ask how long it's been since you've extorted a particular neighborhood on your beat.

POSSIBLE RESPONSES:

- ◆ "My coat's clean." (I just hit that place recently.)
- ◆ "I had it pressed yesterday" (I got money just yesterday.)
- ◆ "It's filthy" (It's been some time since a shakedown.)

VARIATIONS:

- ◆ **to clean your coat:** to get money from those who owe you.

KROP'S GLASSES

[expression]: used when something in evidence locker has gone missing
"That file is probably with Krop's glasses" (The file probably went missing.)

STRANGE

[adjective]: used to refer to Lord Strangford.
"This is strange business." (This is about our business with Lord Strangford.)

STRANGE DEVILS

[plural noun]: a debt owed

VARIATIONS:

- ◆ **to fight devils** [expression]: to collect extortion money

