



# CB Lingo

**M**ERCY SAKES ALIVE, Good Buddys, let the hammer up on those doggone Papermates. Polish Ham ten-fours your bodacious requests. Here's a bundle of CB lingo you've been picking up on your ears like bugs on a bumper for sure. Brain bank 'em and you'll turn into a regular CB ratchet jaws. Four? Now, Good Buddys, keep the greasy side down and the shiny side up. Stack them eights. We gone.

—POLISH HAM, KGK 3915

**Advertising**—A marked police car that has its lights turned on.

**Back door**—Last vehicle (truck) in a string of three or more—all in contact with each other.

**Rear**—Policeman.

**Bar Cave**—Police station or post on highway.

**Beat the Bushes**—"Front door" (lead vehicle) looks for Smokey by going fast enough to draw him out of hiding. See also "Shake the leaves."

**Bodacious**—Good signal; clear transmission.

**Break One-Oh**—Also "Break 10"—I want to talk (on Channel 10).

**Bushels**—One-half-ton; a 20-ton load would be 40 bushels.

**Camera**—Police radar unit.

**Catch You on the Old Flip/Flop**—Catch you on the radio on a return trip.

**Check the Seatcovers**—Watch for a female driver with her skirt pulled up.

**Chicken Coop**—Highway truck weigh station.

**Clean**—No Smokies around.

**Comic Books**—Truckdrivers' log sheets or log books.

**Cotton Picker**—Cotton picker (instead of four-letter words on the air).

**County MOUNTY**—County sheriff or highway patrol.

**Ears**—Antennas or radios. (See also "Smokey with Ears.")

**Eatum-Up**—Roadside restaurant.

**Eighteen Wheeler**—Any semi-tractor truck with any number of wheels.

**Fat Load**—Overload, more weight than local state law allows.

**Feed the Bears**—Collect a ticket from Smokey.

**Five-Five-55**, the legal limit in most places.

**Four**—Abbreviation of "10-4," meaning "OK."

**Four Ten**—10-4, emphatically.

**Four Wheeler**—Passenger car.

**Front Door**—First vehicle (truck) in string of three or more trucks in radio contact.

**Grass**—Side of the road or median strip.

**Green Stamps**—Dollars.

**Green Stamp Road**—Tollway.

**Hammer**—Accelerator.

**Hammer Down**—Highballing; driving fast.

**Handle**—Slang names used by CBers.

**In the Grass**—Parked or pulled over on the median strip.

**Keep Your Nose Between the Ditches and Smokey Out of Your Britches**—Drive safely and look out for speed traps and speeding fines.

**Keep the Greasy Side Down and the Shiny Side Up**—Drive safely.

**Kenosha Cadillac**—Any car made by AMC.

**Let the Channel Roll**—Let others break in and use the channel.

**Mercy**—Oh, wow! (Yes, truckdrivers really do say this.)

**Negatory**—No. Negative reply.

**On the Move**—Driving, moving.

**On the Side**—Parked or pulled over on the shoulder.

**Other Half**—Wife (usually) or husband.

**Plain Wrapper**—Police car with no markings; unmarked car.

**Picture Taker**—Same as "Camera"—a police radar unit.

**Pickup-Up**—Light truck; pickup truck.

**Polish Ham**—Your Editor, Julian Martin.

**Pounds**—Number on S-meter (S-3 is three pounds, etc.).

**Pregnant Roller Skate**—Volkswagen.

**Put the Good Numbers on You**—Threes and eights—best regards, etc.

**Rake the Leaves**—Back door or last vehicle in string, bringing up the rear.

**Ratchet Jaw**—Nonstop talker.

**Rest-Um Up**—Roadside rest area.

**Rig**—CB radio; tractor (double meaning).

**Rocking Chair**—Vehicle that's between

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the front door and back door in a string of vehicles.

**Roger Rollerskate**—Passenger car going more than 20 mph over the limit.

**Roller Skate**—Small car.

**Seatcovers**—Occupants of passenger car, usually attractive females.

**Shake the Leaves**—Act as lead vehicle to decoy any Smokies out of hiding. See also "Beat the Bushes."

**Six Wheeler**—Passenger car pulling a trailer.

**Smokey**—The police.

**Smokey on Four Legs**—Mounted police (used in New York City and Chicago only).

**Smokey the Bear**—State Police Patrol (with or without a Smokey the Bear hat).

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**Smokey with Ears**—Police listening on CB.

**Stack them Eights**—Best regards.

**Sweeping Leaves**—Bringing up the rear. See also "Back Door," and "Raking the Leaves."

**Thirty Three**—10-33, This is an emergency.

**Threes on You**—Best regards.

**Threes and Eights**—Lots of best regards.

**Tijuana Taxi**—Well marked police car.

**Train Station**—Traffic court that fines everybody.

**Two Wheeler**—Motorbike, motorcycle.

**Two Way Radar**—Radar used from moving police car.

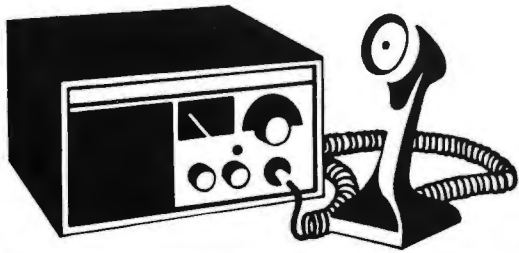
**Wall to Wall**—Peg full-scale on S-meter.

**Wall to Wall Bears**—High concentration of police with strict enforcement, traps, etc.

**We Gone**—Stopping our sending, will listen.

**Wrapper**—Color; "Blue wrapper" is a blue car, usually an unmarked police car.

**XYL**—Wife. (ex-young lady.)



BY SHERMAN P. WANTZ

# CB Scene

## HOW TO USE CB RADIO "BUZZ" WORDS..

**I**NTERSTATE truckers, abetted by a growing number of mobile and base station operators, meet each day, on Citizens Band (CB) channel ten. They use a colorful—often cryptic—language to communicate with one another.

The glossary below has been developed to help CB newcomers interpret the special terms used most frequently on the interstate highway channel and elsewhere in the CB Class D frequency spectrum. Save this list and add new terms and meanings

to it as they develop among the truckers.

Using CB jargon correctly is interpreted by some as a mark of sophistication. Anytime you cannot remember the "proper" term to use, however, plain old everyday English will do. Even on channel ten.

TERM	MEANING	TYPICAL USE	TERM	MEANING	TYPICAL USE
Back	Over	Back to you.	Come again	Repeat your last transmission	Come again?
Back door	Rear of vehicle	I'm watching your back door (protecting you from being overtaken un-awares by police).	Comeback	Return call	Thanks for the comeback.
Back down	Drive slower	Smokey's ahead. Better back it down.	Come on	Over, invitation to transmit	What's your twenty? Come on.
Back out	Stop transmitting	I'm going to back out of here.	County mounty	Sheriff's deputy	Two county mounties are parked under the bridge.
Barefoot	CB set output signal not additionally amplified.	I'm running this rig barefoot.	Covered up	Interferred with	You were covered up that time
Base station	CB set operated from a fixed location	I'm operating here from my base station.	Cut the coax	Turn off CB set	I'm going to cut the old coax now.
Beam	Type of directional antenna	I've got my beam on you now.	Bodacious	Shamelessly strong	You've got a real bodacious signal up here.
Big switch	Turn off CB set	I'm going to pull the big switch.	Ears	CB set	Got your ears on?
Big 10-4	Acknowledged with enthusiasm	That's a big 10-4.	Eighteen wheeler	Truck and trailer	How about that north-bound eighteen wheeler?
Bleeding	Interference from a nearby CB channel	A local (station) is bleeding all over you.	Eights (eighty-eights)	Goodbye (from amateur radio 88's meaning "love and kisses.")	Threes and eights to you.
Break	I'd like to interrupt	Break, break.	Eyeball	Face-to-face meeting	Can we get together for an eyeball?
Breaker	One who interrupts	Go ahead, breaker.	Feed bears	Pay a fine for speeding to highway patrol	I can't afford to feed any bears.
Catch	Talk to	We'll catch you later.	Final	Last transmission	I'll turn it over to you for your final.
Chicken coop	Weigh station for trucks	The chicken coop is closed.	Flip flop	Trucker's return trip	We'll catch you on the flip flop.
Clear	Out, final transmission	We're clear	Four wheeler	Automobile	You've got a southbound four wheeler.

TERM	MEANING	TYPICAL USE
Getting out	Being heard	Just wanted to see if I was getting out.
Good buddy	Salutation used by truckers	What's the smokey situation, good buddy?
Gone	Final transmission, or going to switch to another channel?	We're gone.
Green stamps	Money paid in fines for traffic violations	I'll back her down. I don't have any more green stamps.
Hammer	Truck's accelerator	There aren't any smokies ahead so let the old hammer down.
Handle	Operator's assumed name	The handle here is "Bikini Watcher."
High gear	Use of transmitter power amplifier	See if my signal changes when I shift into high gear.
Holler	Call	I gave you a holler, but you didn't come back.
Home twenty	At home	I'm at my home twenty right now.
How about?	Calling	How about that "Bikini Watcher" one time?
Landline	Telephone call	I'll give him a landline and pass the info.
Lay an eye on	See	Can you lay an eye on me yet?
Linear	Extra power amplifier used to increase CB transmitter output	Are you using a linear or are you running barefoot?
Local yokel	City police officer	There's a local yokel northbound on the move.
Mail	Overheard conversation	I've been sitting here reading the mail
Mercy.	Aah. Pause. Speech habit have no particular meaning	Mercy, that's a big ten-four.
Mile markers	Small signs along interstate highways	The smokey is located at the 142 mile marker.
Mobile	CB set mounted in a vehicle	I'm talking from my mobile.
Modulate	To talk with	I think I modulated with you last week.
Move	In motion	That smokey is on the move.
Negative	No	That's a negative.
Negative contact	station being called failed to respond	Negative contact. I'm gone.
Negative copy	Did not hear response by the station called	Negative copy. We're by.
Negatory	No, negative	Ne-ga-tory (said slowly for added emphasis).
One time	For a short contact	Calling that "Bikini Watcher" one time.
On the side	Standing by (listening) on the channel	We'll be on the side.

TERM	MEANING	TYPICAL USE
Over shoulder	Behind	If you're at the truck stop I'm over your shoulder.
Peanut butter in ears	Not listening to CB set	Guess he's got peanut butter in his ears.
Putting on	Strength of signal	What kind of a signal am I putting on you?
Radio check	Reception	Give me a radio check, please.
Read	Hear	I read you loud and clear.
Rig	CB set	What kind of a rig are you using?
Roger	I acknowledge	Roger on that.
Scatterstick	Vertical antenna with ground plane	I'm using a scatterstick at the moment.
Seventy-three	Best regards (amateur radio term)	Seventy-threes and hope to catch you later.
Shout	Call	Thanks for the shout.
Ski, short skip	Atmospheric conditions that permit contacts greater than line-of-sight distances.	Sorry. Those short skip stations have you covered up.
Smokey-the-Bear, smokies	Highway patrol troopers	A smokey is on the move, heading east.
SWR	Standing wave ratio	This antenna gives me a two-to-one SWR.
Taking pictures	Radar operated speed indicator	The smokies are taking pictures.
Ten-four?	Do you understand?	Is that a ten-four?
Ten roger	I acknowledge	That's a ten roger.
Tijuana taxi	Police car	I've got a Tijuana taxi in sight.
Thermos bottle	Tanker truck	I'm pushing the white thermos bottle.
Threes	Seventy-three, best regards	Threes to you.
Throwing	Transmitting	What kind of a signal am I throwing at you?
Trip	Strong signal	You're making a fine trip down here.
Twenty	Ten-twenty, location	What's your twenty?
Walked all over	Overpower by a stronger signal	Come again. Somebody just walked all over you.
Wallpaper	Postcard acknowledging a two way contact	Give me your twenty and I'll send you some wallpaper
Wall-to-wall	Loud and clear	I'm hearing you wall-to-wall.
Wrapper	Paint job on car	That northbound smokey is in a plain white wrapper.
XYL	Ex-young lady, wife	How's your XYL?
YL	Young lady	I met your YL at the last eyeball.

## MORE CB JARGON

In "How to Use CB Radio 'Buzz' Words" (CB Scene, January 1976), I found some important words missing and some words misused. Below I have listed some of these missing words and definitions, as culled from my own "ratchetjawing" and from friends on the air:

Beaver—any female.

Seatcover—a female in a car.

Ratchetjaw—one who often talks on radio.

Portable parking lot—a truck transporting cars.

Beams—any directional antennas.

Stick—any nondirectional antenna.

Turn the house around—rotating a beam antenna to copy better.

Copy—hear a transmission.

Copy the mail—just listening to the radio with very little talking.

88's—kisses and hugs (for a woman, a sign of affection).

44's—hugs to the little ones.

My goodness!—a pause with no meaning.

Four wheeler—a car.

Eighteen wheeler—a truck.

Junk—a nonderogatory term for radio equipment (i.e. "We may run junk, but we run superior junk!").

Pull the plug—shut off the radio.

Re Linear—one doesn't say he uses a linear, but he may imply it by indicating he's wearing sneakers.

Candyman, Federal Candy Co., Candy Paper—the first two refer to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the last to the tickets it issues.

Green stamps—dollars.

Grasser—low in signal strength.

—Allan S. Adelman, Philadelphia, Pa.