



WI LINGO:

A Grenadian Word Guide

@ G R E N A C _ C A V E H I L L

PREFACE

This dictionary is an informal compilation created by the Grenada Students' Association at Cave Hill, affectionately known as GRENSAC. It is a celebration of our unique linguistic heritage, serving as both a guide and a bridge to keep Grenadian Creole and cultural expressions alive. The official language of Grenada is English; however, our vernacular has been influenced by French, thus resulting in a uniquely Grenadian Creole. Language is a key part of identity, and through this collection, we aim to preserve the essence of who we are as Grenadians, ensuring that future generations and others within our regional and international academic community can engage with our words and expressions.

As a student organization in a diverse university environment, this dictionary is also intended to promote cultural exchange. It not only introduces our island's slangs, sayings, and unique words but also encourages others to share their own. Through this interaction, we hope to highlight the linguistic similarities and differences that unite and distinguish us across the Caribbean and beyond.

It is imperative to note that while this dictionary covers a wide range of our native terms, it is only the beginning of an evolving project. While we have made every effort to capture a variety of commonly used Grenadian words and phrases, we acknowledge that this document is not a definitive representation of Grenadian language and culture. Language is dynamic, and new words and phrases constantly emerge while others take on new meanings. This collection reflects a snapshot in time, capturing many beloved expressions, but it is by no means exhaustive. We encourage everyone to contribute to the continued development of this cultural archive by sharing words and meanings that may not yet be included.

Thank you for embarking on this journey with us. May this dictionary not only serve as a practical reference but also as a reminder of the vibrant spirit and resilience embodied in Grenada's people and culture.

DISCLAIMER

The members of the GRENSAC associated with the publication of this dictionary are not linguistic professionals, and the content herein is intended solely for educational and entertainment purposes, aimed at providing the regional community with insight into our unique linguistic styles.

GRENSAC assumes no responsibility for any inaccuracies, omissions, or varying interpretations of the words and phrases included. We encourage readers to appreciate this collection as a fun and informative guide rather than an authoritative reference.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

(adj) - adjective

(adv) - adverb

(conj) - conjunction

(Interj) - interjection

(n) - noun

(prep) - preposition

(pro) - pronoun

(v) - verb

(art) - article

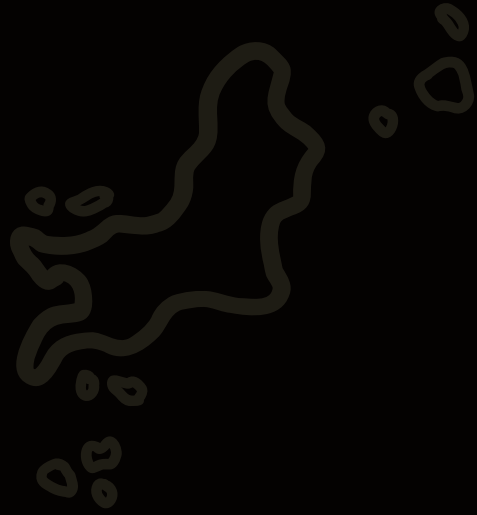
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CHAPTER 1 WORDS

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A

Ah - (*pro*) 'I'.

Allu/Allyuh - (*pro*) You all/ all of you.

Ah go - (*v phrase*) I will.

Alé pang - (*n*) a bad haircut.

Asham - (*n*) a snack made of sugar and grinded corn, commonly prepared and enjoyed by all around All Saints.

Aye-yah-yie - (*n*) expression of anticipation or pain.

B

Babash - *(n)* strong, 'under the counter' (illegally made) rum.

Bad mind - *(n)* phrase refers to a person with ill intentions or jealousy towards others. Commonly used to describe someone who is envious or constantly spreads negativity.

Bacchanal - *(n)* scandal, heavy quarrelling, or confusion.

Back Chat - *(n)* insolent response, especially from a child to an adult.

Bacoo - *(n)* short, ugly-looking human-like creature.

Bakes - *(n)* A traditional Grenadian fried dough made from flour, water and other ingredients commonly enjoyed as a breakfast item or snack.

Backside - *(n)* One's behind.

Bad eye - *(n)* phrase Watching someone is an unpleasant manner or from the side of one's eye.

Ba-john/ Badjohn - *(n)* A man willing to use violence and who likes being known as a dangerous person; Bad boy/bully.

Balishae - *(n)* broad-leafed plant.

Bam Bam - *(n)* One's behind, bottom or butt.

Bamsee - *(n)* One's behind, bottom or butt.

Bavay - *(n)* Dribble/ dried saliva around the mouth after waking from one's sleep.

B

Bazodee - (*adj*) Stupefied, confused or lightheaded.

Beh beh - (*adj*) a stupid person.

Bingobag - (*n*) large underwear.

Bluggoe - (*n*) is a cultivar of bananas normally used when cooking.

Bobo - (*n*) A bruise.

Bondyé / bunjay /BonJay - (*interj*) The French creole term translates to “good God.” Its pronunciation has become anglicized, and it is now a versatile slang expression used in various situations such as excitement, enthusiasm or shock.

Bounce - (*v*) to give another person a fist bump.

Braga - (*adj*) shortened form of the word ‘braggadocious’ and is used to describe someone who is boastful or likes to shows off.

Bubol - (*n*) Someone who is dishonest/a thief.

Bush bath - (*n*) a bath with herbs, or bush, intended to ritually cleanse the person from intractable illness, bad luck, or evil curses.

Broughtupsy - (*n*) manners or upbringing. For example, if someone says you have “no broughtupsy”, it means you have no manners or were not brought up properly.

Bolie/Bolie dish - (*n*) A bowl made from calabash.

Box - (*v*) to hit/ slap someone across their face.

C

Caboosay - (*adj*) Bended or dented.

Cacabaykay - (*n*) a plant used for bush bath.

Cacajay - (*n*) White crusts on the corner of one's eye when they wake up (sleep/eye crust).

Caca poule - (*n*) fowl faeces.

Calaloo - (*n*) dasheen leaves, often stewed or used to make a thick soup.

Cancaneh - (*n*) Candy.

Carjam - (*n*) one's calves.

Cashew - (*n*) a red fruit commonly found in Grenada.

Chang Chang - (*adj*) a rough or uneven cut.

Ching gum - (*n*) the pronunciation of 'chewing gum' by little children.

Choonkie - (*adj*) describing something that is small.

Choonks - (*v*) To use something sparingly or in small amounts, often to make it last longer.

Coki-eye - (*adj*) refers to crossed eyes or the misalignment of eyes.

Coosomey - (*v*) To marinate or let something you've seasoned rest to absorb all the flavours.

Commess - (*n*) nonsense, confusion associated with arguments, gossip and slander.

C

Congoree - (*n*) a millipede.

Caraille - (*n*) green, bumpy, bitter plant that can be cooked or sometimes used to make tea.

Cou cou – (*n*) a meal made of boiled cornmeal.

Country Bookie - (*adj*) Describing someone residing or originating from the rural part of the island.

Crapaud - (*n*) big frog/toad.

Cribo - (*adj*) something or someone that is bad.

Crocus bag - (*n*) A coarse, loosely woven fabric similar to burlap that was commonly made into bags to ship plants and grains.

Cuff - (*v*) to hit someone/ something with a clenched fist.

Cunumunu - (*adj*) foolish person.

Cupie/Cupaye - (*n*) partner/friend.

Curry Favour - (*v*) seeking approval through flattery.

Cut ass/ cut skin/ cut tail - (*v*) to get a whooping.

Cutlass - (*n*) machete.

Cyah - Can't.

D

D - (*art*) The.

Dah - (*pro*) That.

Dat - (*pro*) That.

Damsel - (*n*) a small, circular, green, often sour fruit used to make stew, juice, etc.

Dan Dan - (*n*) one's nicest or best clothes.

Dekashay / Dékatjé - (*v*) to destroy, crush or mash up.

Dem - (*pro*) Them.

Desh - (*v*) to act stupid.

Dey - (*pro*) There, they and them.

Doh - (*v*) Don't.

Dotish - (*adj*) Describing someone as stupid.

Dougla - (*n*) A person who is of mixed East Indian & African descent.

Drake - (*n*) a vagrant.

Drivé/ dreevay - (*v*) To roam around aimlessly or wander about.

Drops - (*n*) pastry made from coconut and dried fruits.

Drouge - (*v*) to carry a lot of something.

Drunkard - (*adj*) a person who is always drunk or not in their right mind.

Duduy/Dodoy - (*adj*) To be stupid.

E

E - (*pro*) "It".

Eh - (*pro*) "What?"

Eheh - (*Interj*) Depending on pronunciation and intonation, it can mean "no", signify agreement, or serve as an expression of curiosity.

Ent - (*Interj*) A way of asking someone if they agree with what is being said or if they understand.

F

Fass - (*adj*) inquisitive person.

Fames - (*adj*) When someone is seeking attention.

Fed up - (*adj*) To be tired or frustrated.

Feolay - (*n*) Someone who is always gallivanting/going out.

Fig - (*n*) Green banana.

Five Finger - (*n*) Carambola/Star fruit.

Flambo - (*n*) a blazing torch made with wood.

Force ripe - (*adj*) a young girl acting older than her age.

G

Galay - (*n/adj*) to describe someone whose skin is covered with bruises, blemishes or marks.

Gap - (*n*) A small road/ track. It can also refer to an informal meeting point or gathering place, often located at a crossroad, intersection, or a spot along a road, where people can wait, meet, or congregate.

Grap - (*v*) Informal term for "grab" or a handful of something.

Gyal-a-rush - (*n*) a type of fade haircut.

Gyalist - (*adj*) a man who has multiple women/ lovers.

Gyul - (*n*) girl.

Goat mouth - (*n*) Someone who jinxes a situation by saying something bad will happen and the outcome follows.

H

Haddus - (v) had to.

Hambug - (v) to annoy, disturb or bother someone.

Harden - (adj) describing someone who is stubborn or disobedient and does not listen to instructions.

Haunted - (adj) someone who has evil/ devious/ mischievous intents.

Hoolahoop - (n) slippers.

Horn - (v) when your partner is being unfaithful or is involved with someone else.

Horner man - (n) the side man of a relationship/ a man who has an affair with a woman who is in a relationship.

Hototo - (n) a large amount of anything.



Inding - (*adj*) Someone who is always in one's business or involved in situations where they are not needed.

Invalid - (*n*) a person made weak or disabled by illness or injury.

J

Jab Jab - (*n*) Traditional character in Grenada's Carnival, symbolizing Grenadian culture and freedom. Often covered in oil or molasses, they sing chants and embody the spirit of freedom, paying homage to the country's history and struggle against oppression.

Jamet - (*n*) a loud and war-like woman / Euphemism for a prostitute.

Jappa - (*v*) disorganized or disorderly.

Jelly - (*n*) young coconut, specifically one that is still soft and can be consumed as a drink and eaten as a snack.

Jook - (*v*) To poke or stab.

Jookootoo - (*adj*) simple, ordinary; a simpleton, poor, unschooled and unsophisticated.

J'ouvert - (*n*) is a traditional Mas played by Grenadians early in the morning of carnival Monday and Tuesday. It consists of the Jab Jab, and revelers cover their bodies in paint, oil or even mud.

Jumbie - (*n*) **1.** A Supernatural creature. **2.** To say one will do something then not follow through.

Jungal - (*adj/n*) Euphemism for whore.

Jus'now - (*adv*) in a little while.

Jusso - (*n*) Just like that.

K

Ketch - (*v*) to catch something.

Kix - (*v*) to laugh at something.

Klim - (*n*) dried, powdered milk.

L

Lalee - (*n*) algae.

Latrine - (*n*) an outside toilet.

Laquas - (*n*) dirty things that come from a person's skin.

Lickerish - (*adj*) someone who is greedy/ gluttonous.

Licks - (*n*) to receive a beating or scolding.

Likkle - (*adj*) Little.

Ligaroo/ Loupgarou - (*n*) mythical shift-shaping monster.

Lime - (*v*) to "hang out" or "socialize" with friends, typically in a casual setting, enjoying food, drinks, and conversation.

La Diabliesse - (*n*) also known as the 'devil woman.' A character in Caribbean folklore.

Lewwe - (*v*) Let us.

Leeway - (*n*) A small amount of freedom or permission to do something, often in a casual or informal sense, without strict rules or supervision.

M

Maco - (*n*) A person who delights in meddling in others' business and spreading gossip.

Macoomie - (*adj*) Refers to males who are perceived as feminine, gay, or not conforming to traditional masculine norms.

Macotious - (*adj*) having the traits of a maco.

Makuku - (*n*) a condition causing severely swollen testicles; often the result of type of hernia.

Maljoe - (*n*) Evil Eye*.

Maga - (*adj*) Derivation of the word meagre. It is used to describe someone as skinny or thin.

Mamaguy - (*n*) the act of flattering or deceiving someone, often to gain an advantage or achieve a specific goal.

Mampay - (*n*) one's calves.

Manjé Pópót - (*interj*) doll's food.

Masanto - (*n*) torch made from kerosene in a glass jar.

Mawet - (*v*) to idle or make stupidity.

Meg - (*adj*) being hungry.

Meléé - (*n*) Confusion or drama.

Mussi - (*adv*) must be.

N

Nansi story - (*n*) made up lies.

Nastiness - (*adj*) describing a person who is no good.

Neh nen - (*interj*) Can be used to express that someone is having a tough time or is in a challenging situation.



Obzokee/Obzocky - (*adj*) Big, unsightly, or out of shape (can be used to describe someone).

Obeah - (*n*) sorcery, witchcraft.

Oh Geed - (*interj*) An expression used to express disgust.

Ol' talk - idle chatter, gossip, social chit-cha.

Open ce-pulka - (*n*) a house without rooms.

Oui papa - (*interj*) expression used for many situations such as surprise.

P

Pagaté - (*n*) a bush that itches.

Panquai - (*n*) Money made from a small side hustle.

Papayo / Papa oye - (*interj*) An expression used in various situations, often to convey surprise, excitement or disbelief.

Pappyshow - (*n*) something/someone being taken as a joke/being ridiculed.

Papootan - (*n*) A man who is taken advantage of or ill-treated by women.

Parry - (*v*) to meet with someone, usually for romantic or sexual purposes.

Penacool - (*n*) refers to an icy drink served in a plastic bag, much like an ice lolly or “icey”.

Pesh - (*n*) money.

Picky - (*adj*) few few.

Planass - (*v*) To beat someone with the broad side of a machete (cutlass).

Popo - (*n*) baby; very small child.

Punkassal - (*n*) a cheap/old shoe.

Pwell - (*n*) pubic hair.

Q

Quenk - (*adj*) an annoying person.

Qualey - (*adj*) pruney, wrinkled or dried up.

R

Ra-ra - (*n, v*) a toy or to talk.

Ram-cram - (*adj*) filled to capacity.

Rumple - (*adj*) ruffled.

Rance - (*v*) to be smelling rancid.

Renk - (*adj*) used to describe someone or something which has a strong or unpleasant odor.

S

Salay/Salée - (*adj*) very salty.

Santopee - (*n*) centipede

Saraca/Salaka - (*n*) a traditional African thanksgiving feast where the community comes together and cook and share amongst each other.

Shushu - (*v*) to speak privately about someone or something.

Simmy-dimmy - (*v*) stupid things/ nonsense/ mumbo jumbo

Sketel - (*adj*) old; not in good condition; euphemism for whore

Skinup - (*n*) a green fruit. It is referred to as guinep, kenep and chenet in other parts of the region.

Snowice - (*n*) juice placed in a small plastic bag, tied at the top and often frozen.

Sometimeish - (*adj*) moody

Soongoo - (*adj*) Moving sluggish or lackadaisical

Soucouyan - (*n*) female version of ligaroo

Stupes - (*interj*) an expression used to describe a wide range of emotions which often involves the kissing of one's teeth.

Stupidness - (*n*) stupidity.

Stush - (*adj*) someone who acts uptight.

Su-Su/ Sou Sou - (*n*) A traditional, informal savings method practiced in some Caribbean communities, where a group of individuals pool their resources and take turns receiving a collective sum of money.

S

Sweetie - (*n*) any candy.

T

Tabanca - (*n*) emotional pain someone feels after a breakup.

Tabay - (*n*) confusion/drama.

Talawah - (*adj*) to be powerful and resilient.

Tanty - (*n*) aunty.

Tanty man - (*n*) a male who is very feminine.

Taytay - (*n*) breast of a woman.

Tom fool - (*v*) to trick.

Ton-kee-lonki - (*interj*) a common expression used by children usually when someone is getting in trouble.

Too-Too - (*n*) refers to feces.

Titivation - (*n*) foolish behavior or antics, often characterized by silliness or tomfoolery.

Tuckshop - (*n*) cafeteria.

U

Umpteen - (*adj*) a lot of something, more than what can be counted.

V

Vex - (v) to be mad about something.

Vi-Key-Vi - (adj) Refers to doing something carelessly or haphazardly without much thought, effort, or attention to detail.

Voodoo/ Vodun - (n) the practice of witchcraft.

Voong - (v) to pelt.

Voop - (v) swing & a miss.

Voop vap - (v) quick.

W

Wah - (*pro*) What.

Waters - (*n*) Soup.

Wey - (*adv*) where.

Waggo - (*interj*) what's going on? How are you?

Wahappen - (*interj*) what is the matter? / What happened?

Wasteman - (*n*) refers to someone who lacks ambition or treats persons poorly.

Woolawoop - (*n*) old slippers.

Wotless - (*n*) refers to someone who is no good.

Wukk - (*v*) work.

Y

Yeen - (*pro*) you ain't / you are not.

Yuh - (*pro*) you.

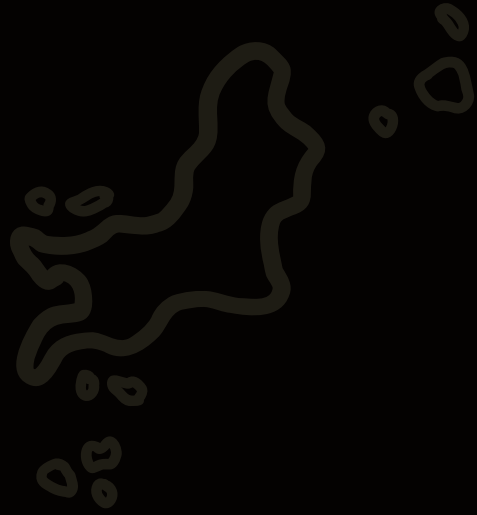
Z

Zaboca - (*n*) Avocado pear.

Zagada - (*n*) a big green ground lizard.

Zami - (*n*) A lesbian.

Zutee - (*n*) plant that itches.



CHAPTER 2

SAYINGS / SLANGS

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SAYINGS / SLANGS

- **All dog have their day, every pig have their Saturday** - everyone time has to come regardless of it being something good or bad.
- **Ah fus** - used to emphasize the highest degree of quality, intensity, or approval. E.g. "*Ah fus it sweet!*" (This mango is incredibly sweet!)
- **And is dat** - "that is it" or "that's final." It conveys a sense of conclusion or certainty about a statement or situation.
- **Catching me nenen** - implies one is having a difficulty or struggling with something.
- **Charity begins at home** - Emphasizes the importance of addressing one's own responsibilities and obligations to those closest to us before reaching out to assist others in need. Also implies that manners are first taught and learned within the home environment, which influences how individuals interact with others in society.
- **Common sense make before book sense** - highlights the value of everyday wisdom and life experience sometimes being more effective than academic learning in some situations.
- **Dance your yard before you dance abroad** - simply means that one should take care of their responsibilities at home or in their community before venturing out to impress others elsewhere. Building a strong foundation before expanding beyond.
- **Dog luck is not cat luck** - what may work for someone may not necessarily work for you. One cannot assume that what benefits one will benefit all.
- **Dog thanks is mash** - persons being ungrateful after you have put themselves out for them.

SAYINGS / SLANGS

- **Egg have no place in rock stone dance** - advising persons to avoid getting involved in things beyond their capacity or strength or basically just know your place and where you belong.
- **I doh have to take light and shine you** - meaning its not hard to see someone's true colours.
- **If yu know what good for you** - If you know what good for you.
- **Goat bite me** - this is said in situations where things don't seem to be going well for someone no matter how hard they try.
- **Long rope for magga goat** - too much freedom can lead to a person's detriment.
- **Mash my peas, I'll plant your corn** - can be used in situations of conflict, implying that if you try to cause trouble for someone, they can retaliate by creating even bigger problems for you. It can be seen as a warning about the consequences of trying to harm others.
- **Never see come see** - someone who is impressed by things others find ordinary, usually because they've never been exposed to them before.
- **Not stretching my hand longer than my foot** - this means to live within one's means or not spending more than one can afford.
- **Not all skin teeth is grin/laugh** - not everyone who smiles in your face is happy for you or genuine.
- **Monkey know what tree to climb** - persons know exactly who they can harass and get away with it with.
- **One day one day congote** - one day, things will happen.

SAYINGS / SLANGS

- **Open si pulka** - wide open.
- **Proper ting no jappa ting** - when something is done well.
- **She belly in she nose** - this means someone is pregnant.
- **Sa ki tann, pale lòt** - who hear, tell the others.
- **When God cya come he does send** - this implies that when divine intervention is not direct, God sends someone or something to help in its place.
- **What is joke for you is death for crapo** - what one person might find amusing or entertaining (a "joke") can have serious and potentially devastating consequences for someone else.
- **What sweet in goat mouth, sour in e bam bam** - what seems enjoyable or pleasant at first can later have negative consequences.
- **What the eye can't see, can't hurt the heart.** - what you do not know cannot hurt you.
- **Who beg doh getting, who doh beg doh want** - simply means nobody is getting.
- **You can't fatten the pig the day of the slaughter** - preparation must be done in advance when doing something. You cannot expect great results without putting in the necessary time and effort beforehand.
- **Yu eat parrot bam bam?** - question asked to someone who is usually very talkative.
- **Yuh fadda head** - used as an insult in a joking manner and not to be taken too seriously.

SAYINGS / SLANGS

- **Yu fadda is a glass maker?** - you are blocking my view/standing in my way.
- **Yu hand round?** - you can do it yourself.
- **Yu raise muh nose** - you made me proud.
- **Yu story** - you're lying.



CLOSING STATEMENT

This dictionary celebrates Grenada's rich linguistic heritage and will continue to grow with each generation. We hope it fosters pride in our dialect and invites cultural exchange. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

***Grenada Students' Association at Cave Hill
Executive Council 2024-2025***

F O L L O W U S

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