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The influence of American culture on Liverpool life in the past hundred and fifty years or so has often been under-estimated. In fact the city's role as a major transatlantic port brought many aspects of American culture to Liverpool, not least music and fashion. But another significant American import has been American English, as evinced by the good number of words that have been incorporated into the Liverpudlian vernacular.

'Ace', meaning 'excellent', from the high value of the card, and 'boss', used as a familiar term of address ('alright boss'), are both Americanisms. As is the strong Liverpool term 'bad news', in the sense of 'something seriously bad, unacceptable, dangerous'; in American English it originally meant a 'restaurant bill'.

Some older terms related to work: 'carrying out', meaning a worker's sandwiches, derived from the American 'carry out', 'prepared food and drink for consumption away from the premises of sale' (now 'take-away'). While a 'growler' was a tin can used by dockers to keep their 'carrying out' fresh (it came from New York and originally meant 'a container to carry home beer bought in a bar'). Staying with the docks, 'stevedore', an older usage than the related 'docker', was an American borrowing from Spanish - 'estivador', from 'estivar', 'to stow cargo'.

More than a few words arrived from America by way of popular culture – 'pictures' (cinema), as well as 'poke', 'scratch' and 'spondulics' (money). The 'cowies' (cowboy films) brought 'vamoose' ('go away'), from the Spanish 'vamos', 'let's go', and 'skedaddle' (move off, escape).

American sailors brought 'Liverpool kiss' over the Atlantic; originally a blow to the face, later a headbutt, it is now better known as the more alliterative 'Kirkby kiss'.