

Above Snakes – If you were “above snakes,” you were above ground – meaning still alive.

Absquatulate – To leave or disappear.

Ace in the Hole – A hideout or a hidden gun.

Ace-High – Depending upon the context, this might mean “first-class and respected”, or it could mean a winning poker hand.

According to Hoyle – Correct, by the book. “Hoyle” is a dictionary of rules for card playing games.

Acknowledge the Corn – To admit the truth, to confess a lie, or acknowledge an obvious personal shortcoming.

Acock – Knocked over, defeated, astounded, suddenly surprised.

Acorn Calf – A weak or runty calf.

Acquisitive – Booty, plunder.

Acreocracy – Signifies a landlord interest.

Across Lots – The fastest way possible, in the most expeditious manner.

Actual – Money.

Adam’s Ale – Water.

Addle-headed – Empty-headed, not smart.

Addle-pot – A spoilsport

Advantage – Pocket advantage – Carrying a derringer in a coat pocket that is charged and at half cock. Sometimes a shot is fired through the pocket itself.

Afeared – Scared, frightened.

Afterclaps – Unexpected happenings after an event is supposed to be over.

Afly – To become an expert at.

Agee, Ajee – Askew, crooked.

A Hog-Killin’ Time – A real good time. “We went to the Rodeo Dance and had us a hog-killin’ time.”

Airin’ the Lungs – A [cowboy](#) term for cussing.

Airin’ the Paunch – Vomit, throw-up, regurgitate. He’s “airing the paunch” after a heavy bout of drinking.

Airish – A little cool.

Air Line Road – A railroad track when it passes over the level unbroken prairie.

Airtights – Canned goods, such as canned beans, milk, or fruit.

Alfa Desperado – What [cowboys](#) often called a farmer.

A Lick and a Promise – To do a haphazard job. “She just gave it a lick and a promise.”

All Abroad – At a loss, not comprehending.

All Beer and Skittles – Unpleasant, not so happy.

All Down But Nine – Missed the point, not understood. This referenced missing all nine pins in bowling. (Yes, there was bowling during [Old West](#) times.)

All-fired – Very, great, immensely; used for emphasis. He is just too all-fired lazy to get any work done around here. Also “hell-fired” and “jo-fired.”

Allers – Always

All My Eye – Nonsense, untrue.

All Over – Bearing a resemblance to some particular object

All-overish – Uncomfortable. “I was just all-overish around that steely-eyed man.”

All the Caboose – Everywhere

All the Shoot – The whole assembly, all the party.

All to Pieces – Completely, absolutely.

Allot Upon – To intend, to form a purpose. “I allot upon going to Boston.”

All-Standing – Without preparation, suddenly.

Ambush – The scales used by grocers, coal-dealers, etc. Call such because the were always “lying in weight.”

Among the Willows – Dodging the Law.

Amputate Your Timber, or mahogany – Go way, run off.

Anasazi – [Navajo](#) for “ancient ones,” this word describes an ancient tribe of the Southwest. Some Navajo say this meaning is a mistranslation for a word that means “ancient enemies.” Another interpretation is “ancient ancestors.”

Angelicas – Young unmarried women.

Anglomaniacs – Another name for those “back east,” ultra-English.

Angoras – Hair-covered, goat-hide chaps. Especially good in cold weather.

Annex – To steal. This became popular at the time Texas was annexed, which was regarded by many as a theft.

Anti-fogmatic – Raw rum or whiskey. “I see that bartender is mixing a couple of anti-fogmatics.”

Anti-goglin – Lopsided.

Apple – Saddle horn.

Apple Jack – A liquor distilled from cider, also called cider brandy.

Apple Peeler – Pocket Knife

Apple Pie Order – In top shape, perfect order.

Arbuckle's – Slang for coffee, taken from a popular brand of the time. “I need a cup of Arbuckle's.”

Argufy – Argue, to have weight as an argument.

Argy – Argue

Arikara (*also Arikaree*) – This term is believed to mean “horns,” after this tribe's ancient custom of wearing hair ornaments that stuck upright and were made of bone.

Arkansas Toothpick – A long, sharp knife. Also known as a California or Missouri toothpick.

Armas – Spanish forerunner of chaps. [Cowboys](#) fastened two large pieces of cowhide to the side of the saddle that protected their legs from thorns and brush.

Ary – Either.

Ash-Hopper – A lie cask, or box for ashes, resembling a hopper in a mill.

Ask No Adds – Ask no favor.

At Sea – At a loss, not comprehending. “When it comes to understanding women, I’m at sea.”

Attitudinize – To assume an affected attitude.

Atween – Between.

Atwixt – Between. “There were hard feelings atwixt them.”

Auger – The big boss.

Axle Grease – Butter

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