**List of African American English (AAVE) words and phrases**

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| **Word/Phrase** | **Alternatives** | **Context** | **Examples** |
| 👏 clapping 👏emojis 👏 between 👏 words 👏 is 👏 appropriative👏 | Just say what you are trying to say.  Exclamation points!!  Capitalizing Every Single First Letter | [Link](https://twitter.com/amaditalks/status/767116024537722881?lang=en)  [Link](https://twitter.com/Ava_Jae/status/859480537844649984)  Visual representation of AAVE performance (i.e. clapping between words to emphasize a point) |  |
| \_\_\_\_ game on point, on point, on fleek, fleek | Perfect, perf, perfection, well done, amazing, without flaw, flawless | Term used by African American women, popularized by Peaches Monroee | “Wow Stephanie, your eyeliner is perf like so perf like omg STEPHANIE!” |
| 100, keepin’ it 100, one hunnit, one hunned, 💯 emoji (depending on the intended meaning), etc., 10s | Honest, completely honest, sincere, straightforward, speaking one’s mind, real | Shortening of “one hundred percent real” or “honest”, spoken with a Southern American or AAVE accent.  The 💯 emoji is also AAVE if you mean it in the way discussed here. But if you mean it as “good job!” or something similar, that is fine.  Also [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) | “I’m just being honest.”  “I want to address this issues as straightforwardly as possible.”  “Let’s be real for a sec…” |
| -ass *(at the end of an adjective)* | Super \_\_\_, very\_\_\_\_, extremely \_\_\_\_  These kinds of suffixes used to emphasize emotion are usually derived from AAVE.  Just drop the -ass and continue with your sentence. | Used when emphasizing emotion, e.g. “This is a cool-ass song!” or “It’s a hot-ass day outside.” | “This is a very coolsong!”  “It’s a super hot day outside.” |
| Ain’t  (depends on the context and the persona trying to be portrayed -- are you imitating a Black woman/person?) |  | In AAVE, *ain’t* can replace a lot more than just *isn’t*, *are not*, or *am not.*  Example: “I ain’t done that shit.” (*Ain’t* replaced *didn’t*) |  |
| About that, here for this/that | Support, enjoy, or any variation, loving this/that | Used when expressing immense joy or support | “I support \_\_\_\_’s work.”  “I really enjoy \_\_\_\_\_’s art.” |
| AF, af, as fuck | Super \_\_\_, really \_\_\_\_, extremely \_\_\_\_, so, beyond | Used for emphasis, similarly to *“-ass”*.  E.g., “I’m tired af right now.”  “I’m hungry as fuck right now.” | “I’m so tired right now.”  “I’m beyond hungry right now.” |
| Bae, boo | Other endearment terms, such as: babe, beb, sweetie, love, honey, etc. | Used as a term of endearment | “They are my beb!”  “I love my sweetie!” |
| Basic | Boring, unoriginal, bland | Often used as an insult, to describe how unoriginal or boring the other person is | “Your shirt’s as bland as a glass of unseasoned evaporated water.” |
| Bawdy | body | [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) |  |
| Be *(habitual use, e.g. “They be killin’ it!”)* | Is, are, am, are always, have been |  | “Wow, they are amazing.”  “Wow, you rocked!” |
| Been (*“I been knew that!”*) |  | Used to indicate knowledge/skills/whatever condition has existed for a long ass time. |  |
| Beat, beat your face, beat for the gods | Glammed up | [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) |  |
| Biiiiiitch |  | [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) |  |
| Boi, gurl, etc. | See **3. Gendered/Transantagonistic Terms** | [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) |  |
| Bomb | Cool, great, other related variations | Used to emphasize something positively. E.g., “The food was bomb!” | “The music festival was so great!” |
| Boss | Cool, great, other related variations | Used to emphasize something positively | “The music festival was so great!” |
| Bruh | Friend, buddy, bud, etc.  See **3. Gendered/Transantagonistic Terms** | Used to refer to someone (usually a friend), often regardless of gender, but is androcentric  Bruh refers to a situation almost more than a person. When something wild happens, we'll say 'bruh,' more to ourselves than to another person. |  |
| Catch these hands | Fight me | Used to threaten someone, sometimes playfully or seriously |  |
| Chill *(E.g., “Got no chill!”)* | Can’t relax | “Got no chill” is used to refer to someone who cannot calm down or relax, or is overreacting  No chill more often has a similar definition to extra, or refers to someone with no filter or generally low inhibitions | “This person can’t seem to calm down…” |
| Coins |  | [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) |  |
| Come for (someone) | Attack, judge, criticize | [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) | “Don’t attack me but…” |
| Cool\* | \*[Okay to use](http://katblaque.tumblr.com/post/122522946957/queerkents-mintflavoredroses-queerkents), but... | … acknowledge that it has its roots in AAVE |  |
| Cop *(E.g., “Let me cop that!”)* | Get, buy | Used to say that you got or bought something | “I need to know where to buy this!” |
| Cray cray | See **2. Ableist Language - Cr\*zy** |  |  |
| Cunty |  | [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) |  |
| Def | Great, totally, awesome, excellent, super, definitely |  |  |
| Dig, dig it, ya dig, you dig, you feel, you feel me | You know? You get it? You understand? |  |  |
| Dip | Leave | Used to refer to when people are leaving an area or situation | “\_\_\_\_ and I were planning on leaving after the food was served.” |
| Dope | Cool, great, other related variations | Used to emphasize something positively | “The music festival was so great!” |
| Drag, dragging, get dragged, etc. | Told off, call or called out | Used to criticize others extensively for something problematic that they did | “This person needs to be called out for their use of ableist language.” |
| Extra | Excessive, too much, over the top, trying too hard | Often used negatively, to describe someone who is doing too much to be accepted or liked.  Also playfully, especially to describe how someone dresses e.g. shorthand for “that is completely excessive and I love everything about it”. | “Their wardrobe was kind of excessive.”  “They’re trying too hard to be cool.” |
| Fam | Folks, friends, family, loved ones | Often used to refer to a group in an endearing manner | “Hey folks.” |
| Feeling some type of way | Makes me feel, or any variation of that phrase | Used to emphasize a feeling that someone has | “This makes me feel so happy!”  “This has me feeling extremely sad.”  “This feels strange.” |
| Fierce | Notably excellent, superior quality | Used as a compliment, often in appearance  Also [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) | “You look amazing!”  “She looks fantastic!” |
| Finna | Trying to, about to |  | “I’m about to go to a party tonight.” |
| Fo sho, fo real | Absolutely, I agree, of course, you’re welcome, not a problem |  |  |
| Fuckboy, fuckboi, fuccboi, etc. | Asshole, douchebag | Used to describe a specific kind of guy who is often creepy, predatory, or annoying | “He was being a really creepy asshole.” |
| Gag, gagged (to mean amazed or taken aback) |  | [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) |  |
| Giving me life, giving me all, giving you (a look/mood/aesthetic) | I am inspired by this, I am moved by this, I feel validated | Often used to refer to something positively, usually as inspiring  [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) | “This TV show moves me.”  “I love this musical.” |
| Go off, but go off | But ok, go ahead, i guess, cool | [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) | “That’s not how it works at all but ok” |
| The gawds, beat for the gods/gawds |  | [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) |  |
| Have several seats | Mind your own business; don’t get involved | [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) |  |
| Hella | Very, really, extremely, or any  other variant |  | “They’re a really cool person.” |
| Homies, squad | Friends, group of friends |  | “I’m going to hang out with my friends tomorrow.” |
| -the house, the house down boots, etc |  | [Tweet reply by @tiwadidthat](https://twitter.com/tiwadidthat/status/998936798683451392?s=21) |  |
| Hunty |  | [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) |  |
| Hype, get hyped | Excitement, or any related variation |  | “I’m so excited for the concert this weekend!”  “I’m so ready for the party tomorrow.” |
| I feel you | I relate, I relate to this, or other related phrases |  | “I can relate to you because I suffer from depression, too.” |
| Killin’ it | Outstanding, you’re amazing, or any related variation |  | “You’re doing great!” |
| Laid, laying your edges |  | [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) | “I brushed/gelled down my baby hairs” |
| Lit | Awesome, rad, wild, wonderful, adventurous, etc. |  |  |
| Lowkey, and other -key terms  *(****Variant one****: How you really feel about something)*  *(****Variant two****: Subtle, small, quiet)* | ***V1***: Honestly, personally, truthfully, or other related variations  ***V2***: Subtle, small, quiet |  | ***V1***: “Honestly, it made me think of this.”  ***V1***: “Personally, I don’t think that’s true.”  ***V2***: “We’re having a small get-together.” |
| Mad | Really, extremely, unbelievably |  | “It’s really hot outside!” |
| Mean *(e.g., That’s a mean beat!”)* | Awesome, amazing, cool, nice, sweet |  | “That’s an awesome song!” |
| [Petty](https://www.philadelphiaprintworks.com/blogs/news/118650053-on-the-mess-petty-makes) | Spiteful, evil, bitter, flippant |  |  |
| Pressed | Stressed, under pressure | [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) |  |
| Ratchet | Messy, a mess, not put together |  | “Damn, you’re a mess today.” |
| Read (someone), reading | Roasted | To “read” someone is to point out their flaws and everything that’s wrong with them as if they’re a book  Also [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) | “My professor just roasted me for being late.” |
| Real *(E.g., “The struggle is real.”)* | Difficult, unpleasant, enduring, I’m having a difficult time |  | “Finals are kicking my ass, I’m having a difficult time.” |
| School, schooling | Educate, teach, show, remind | Schooling often means one-upping or telling someone off | “They were educating us about colonialism.”  “Let me remind you all of something very important.” |
| Serve, serving, serving up looks/aesthetics | Look good, or any related variation | [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) | “You look so good!”  “You look amazing!” |
| Shade (see “throwing shade”) |  |  |  |
| Shook | Shocked, rattled, caught off guard, in tears, dead, surprised, amazed, appalled |  | “Omg i’m dead” |
| Sickening | Amazing, beautiful, breathtaking | [Tweet reply by @tiwadidthat](https://twitter.com/tiwadidthat/status/998936798683451392?s=21) |  |
| Side-eye *(E.g., “I was side-eying them when they said that.”)* | I rolled my eyes at them, skeptical, suspicious, did not fully believe or take seriously, etc. |  | “I couldn’t believe them when they said that.”  “I was skeptical about what they were doing.” |
| Sis | Friend, honey, babe, darling, sweetie | [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) |  |
| Slay | Perfected, dominated, honed, refined, made it their own | [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) | “Your makeup is perfect!”  “Your outfit looks so refined!” |
| Snatch,  looking snatched,  snatch someone’s wig/weave | Looking amazing, looking cute, looking hot, (also see “shook”) | [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) | “I’m looking hot today!” |
| Spillin’ tea | Gossip |  |  |
| Stan | Adore, are a fan of, obsessed with | [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) |  |
| Stank face | Disapproving look on your face, frown, looking upset |  | “They gave me a really big frown after I said something wrong.” |
| Stay woke, woke | Socially aware, critically conscious, or any related variation |  | “I appreciate \_\_\_\_’s work, I consider them to be very socially aware.” |
| Stay, steady *(habitual use, e.g., “She stay working,” and “They steady working.”)* | Is always, keeps |  | “She keeps working.”  “They’re always working.” |
| Straight up | Just, really |  | “The situation was just fucked up.”  “It was really frustrating.” |
| Swag | See *“Dope”.* |  |  |
| Tea, T | The truth, the deal, etc | [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) | “Ok here’s the deal” |
| The struggle | The difficulty, the dangers, the situation, the conditions |  |  |
| Thirst, thirsty | Desperate |  | “They seem so desperate for attention, can’t they relax?” |
| Thot | See **4. Other Terms - Slut**. |  |  |
| Throwing shade | Disrespect, insult, gossip |  |  |
| Tried it |  | [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) |  |
| Trip, be trippin’ | Worry | Trippin often means actin a fool | “Don’t even worry about it.”  “They seem pretty distraught about it.” |
| Turn up, turnt | Excited, wild, so much fun |  |  |
| Werk |  | [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) |  |
| Wypipo, whypipo, YT(s), etc. | White people, or any variant in a different language |  |  |
| Wig (see “snatch”) |  | [Tweet reply by @tiwadidthat](https://twitter.com/tiwadidthat/status/998936798683451392?s=21) |  |
| Y’all\*  *(depends on how it is performed--used in way that seems like “acting Black”)* | Everyone, you all, or any other variation |  |  |
| Yas, Yaaaaaas, etc. | Yes, yay, yeah!, wow!, omgggg | [Tweet by @RMDavison](http://twitter.com/rmdavison/status/998411893621567488) |  |