

Talkin' Texan, Learning Texan from A to Z

Talkin' Texan

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**Texan – English**  
**Aws-tun—Austin**

Well, every state has a capital, and Texas is no exception to the rule. The state capital is called Austin and is conveniently located in central Texas. Austin was named after Steven F. Austin, one of the early settlers in Texas. If you happen to be visiting from Los Angeles or New York City, you may become a little homesick while driving here during rush hour.

There is really no rush, as you'll probably be doing about three miles per hour in your car or stuck in a major gridlock. The Texas legislature did this on purpose so that tourists visiting from out-of-state big cities would feel right at home.

When I was in high school, our civics class took a field trip to see the Texas legislature in action. They call them field trips because we would have to cross a field to get to the school bus. I didn't see much action in the legislature, except for one fellow kinda flirting with his secretary, while another fellow was standing at the podium talking about traffic, streets, highways, and stuff, and most of the other legislators would be reading books, walking around, sleeping, eating donuts, drinking coffee, and apparently doing their legislative-type stuff. Most government workers at least try to look busy while on the job, and I suppose that since a bunch of people elected them to their jobs, they just don't have to put up with this pretense.

The following are some actual Texas state laws; Folks, I ain't making these laws up, although at times I wish I were.

*It's against the law for anyone to have a pair of pliers in his or her possession.* Apparently, there is no law against anyone having blowguns, machetes, knives, or axes. I suppose that this law does work, because I've never heard of a "plier murderer."

*When two trains meet each other at a railroad crossing, each shall come to a full stop, and neither shall proceed until the other has gone.* Well, folks, now you know why train travel is not

*Joe Kent Roberts*

as popular as it once was in Texas. They should have added all railroad crossings shall have picnic areas. Then again, now I know why I was never elected to higher office.

A recently passed anti-crime law *requires criminals to give their victims twenty-four hours' notice, either orally or in writing, and to explain the nature of crime to be committed.* I really feel safer just knowing that this law is on the books, because it shows that our Texas legislators saying that they are tough on crime is not just a lot of talk—they have rolled up their shirtsleeves and made bold, brilliant decisions against crime. Ain't it nice to know that the next time you're gonna be a crime victim, the perpetrator is highly educated and has good communication skills? Plus, you'll have twenty-four-hours' notice to correct any flaws in their writing skills. My old English teacher must be absolutely thrilled.

*It is illegal to have more than three sips of beer while standing.* This law seems to be a safety issue. Although making it mandatory that all bar stools require seat belts could possibly be the next addition to this law. What's nice is that there is no law that forbids taking more than three sips of beer and dancing at the same time. If you happen to observe an individual lying in the gutter drinking a beer, please be aware that there appears to be no law against this activity. However, as soon as this individual stands up and takes more than three sips of beer, please report this activity to the nearest law enforcement officer. If there is no law enforcement officer in sight, please check the nearest doughnut shop to see if one or more officers are available.

There is also a very confusing law about drinking and driving in the state of Texas. Signs are posted everywhere that say it is against the law to drink and drive. As a good citizen, I do try to obey each and every law. However, there should be a law against someone tempting you to break the law. Just the other day when I pulled up to the local drive-up window at a fast-food

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restaurant and placed my order, they asked me, "Would you like something to drink with that?"

I replied, "No, thank you, I'm driving."

*The entire Encyclopedia Britannica is banned in Texas because it contains a formula for making beer at home.* The people at the Encyclopedia Britannica are now working on a revision on this making-beer-at-home part to see if they can get this ban lifted. They will be adding that you might also be able to make beer in limousines and at state capitols. Hopefully, if in the meantime your home is raided by the local SWAT team because you happen to have a banned copy of this encyclopedia in your home, you won't be standing around sipping a beer. It would probably be a good idea not to have any open containers of doughnuts in your home too. It is also against the law to tempt or bribe any officer of the law.



## B

### *Dictionary*

BADE—Perhaps someone bade you farewell before you crossed the border.

Bade means “bed.”

As in: Aahmona bade.

“I’m going to bed.”

BAH—Not really a bah humbug.

Bah means “buy.”

As in: Aah wanna bah thay-ut.

“I want to buy that.”

BAR-BRA—This is not a special garment that females wear in a bar.

Bar-bra means “Barbara”—I suppose that three a’s in a word just takes too long to pronounce.

As in: Woncha meat muh gale Barbra.

“I’d like you to meet my girlfriend Barbara.”

BARE—Nope, not as empty, without clothes, or buck naked.

Bare means “beer.”

As in: Awl hava bare; yont wun?

“I’ll have a beer; do you want one?”

BARNT—Just what do they mean by barnt?

Barnt means “burnt.”

As in: Muh sopper wus rally barnt.

“My supper was really burnt.”

BARTH—At times, this word gets confusing, even when it is used in a sentence and you take the word in context.

Barth means “birth.”

As in: Muh waf gayve barth tew uh gale.

“My wife gave birth to a girl.”

BARTH-DAE—Yep, that’s just what it means.

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Barth-dae means "birthday."

As in: Hay-pe Barth-dae tew yew.

"Happy Birthday to You."

BAT-TREE—A tree from which we make Louisville Sluggers?  
Nope.

Bat-tree means "battery."

As in: Aah nade uh nu bat-tree fur muh pik-um-up.

"I need a new battery for my pickup."

BAYS-BOL—Now you're getting the hang of it.

Bays-bol means "baseball."

As in: Texus Raingers Baysbol Tame

"Texas Rangers Baseball Team"

BAY-UST—No, it's not a bay named ust.

Bay-ust means "best."

As in: Duh bay-ust tames cum frum Taxes.

"The best teams come from Texas."

BLAY-UCK—Sounds like some sort of a contagious disease,  
doesn't it?

Blay-uck means "black."

As in: Ats muh blay-uck pik-um-up.

"That's my black truck."

BODACIOUS—Strictly a word first formulated and used in Texas.

Similar to the Yankee word giganticous, bodacious means  
"really, really big" or "really, really nice" or "really, really  
fabulous." You know, bodacious!

As in: Whale, shay shore is bodacious.

"Well, she sure is bodacious."

Without being there and seeing what he is seeing, it's really  
difficult to determine what he is talking about.

BOWIE—Nothing to do with a Bowie knife, which is pronounced  
Boo-ey.

Bowie means "boy."

As in: Ain't he a han-sum bowie?

*Joe Kent Roberts*

“Isn’t he a handsome boy?”

**BRE-FUSS**—In many parts of the country, this is the first meal of the day.

Bre-fuss means “breakfast.”

As in: Whale, awl hayve saw-sage un aigs fer bre-fuss.

“Well, I’ll have sausage and eggs for breakfast.”

**BROUGHT**—Pronounced like “I brought her flowers.”

Brought means “bright.”

As in: Duh brought lots e-yun tay-oun.

“The bright lights in town.”

**BUB-EYE**—They are not making any reference to your facial features.

Bub-eye means “bye-bye.”

As in: Bub-eye, y’all

“Bye-bye, you all.”



**Texan – English**  
**Jung-shun—Junction**

The North Llano River and the South Llano River join together here to form the Llano River. Therefore, they formed a junction—and this town came to be named Junction, instead of Three Rivers, Fork, or Jjunction, Texas. In keeping with tradition, some of the more popular girls names are Llinda, Llucy, Llouise, Llucinda, Llaverne, and Llavone. The more popular boys names are Bbilly Bbob, Ddavid, Ddwight, Jjohn, Jjustin, and Ttom. Junction is known as the “Lland of Lliving Wwaters” and it really is quite pretty around here.

With three rivers and several lakes in the area, water sports are very popular in Junction. The local folks and visitors have a vast array of water activities from which to choose: bboating, ccamping, ffishing, sswimming, and wwater ssking—but of course, no ffishing from any of the bbridges in the area.

On a high hill overlooking the town of Junction, you will find “Llovers’ Lleap.” Each weekend, lovers from all over Texas gather together to leap off this high hill onto a trampoline down below. Since there have been a shortage of lovers at times, they changed the requirements just a bit so more folks could join in on the fun. You really don’t have to be a lover to leap, as the only requirement is that you join hands as you leap off the hill.

In the early years of jumping off Llovers’ Lleap, some folks would just holler out different stuff like their names, or yippie, yah-hoo, and stuff like that. Nowadays, lots of folks, as they join hands and jump off the hill, sing songs on their way down to the trampoline. The couple with the most romantic song wins a really nice prize; however, you don’t really need to holler or sing on the way down to enjoy jumping off Llovers’ Lleap.

Since Llovers’ Lleap is now open to everyone, a lot of the kids like to leap off the hill with capes and umbrellas and stuff. Some of the older kids fashion all types of feathers and wings to



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wear as they make their jumps. You get extra bonus points for the jump if you can sing some sort of a bird song on your way down. So far, the most popular bird song has been “On the Wings of a Snow White Dove” by Ferlin Husky.

There is a snack bar and gift shop located near the trampoline that is well stocked with capes and umbrellas, should you and your family decide to participate in the festivities. There is also a really nice picnic area where you can see all the leapers and jumpers in shady comfort. Should you happen to be visiting Junction on the weekend, just ask any of the locals for directions to Llovers' Leap. Enjoy your stay, or leap!

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