**Informal Contractions**

**What?**

Informal contractions are short forms of other words that people use when speaking casually. They are not exactly slang, but they are a little like slang.

For example, "gonna" is a short form of "going to". If you say "going to" very fast, without carefully pronouncing each word, it can sound like "gonna".

Please remember that these are **informal** contractions. That means that we do not use them in "correct" speech, and we almost never use them in writing. (If you see them in writing, for example in a comic strip, that is because the written words represent the spoken words or dialogue.) We normally use them only when speaking fast and casually, for example with friends. Some people never use them, even in informal speech.

It is probably true to say that informal contractions are more common in American English.

**Examples**

* ain't = am not/are not/is not  
  I ain't sure.  
  You ain't my boss.
* ain't = has not/have not  
  I ain't done it.  
  She ain't finished yet.
* gimme = give me  
  Gimme your money.  
  Don't gimme that rubbish.  
  Can you gimme a hand?
* gonna = going to  
  Nothing's gonna change my love for you.  
  I'm not gonna tell you.  
  What are you gonna do?
* gotta = (have) got a  
  I've gotta gun.  
  I gotta gun.  
  She hasn't gotta penny.  
  Have you gotta car?
* gotta = (have) got to  
  I've gotta go now.  
  I gotta go now.  
  We haven't gotta do that.  
  Have they gotta work?
* kinda = kind of  
  She's kinda cute.
* lemme = let me  
  Lemme go!
* wanna = want to  
  I wanna go home.
* wanna = want a  
  I wanna coffee.
* whatcha = what are you  
  Whatcha going to do?
* whatcha = what have you  
  Whatcha got there?
* ya = you  
  Who saw ya?

**Listening**

The Informal Contractions Song

<http://www.englishclub.com/vocabulary/contractions-informal.htm>

