LEARN THE LINGO!

Do you know your UFOs from your PhDs? Are you a monogamous WIPer or a hungry yarnivore? Get to know the lingo with *Simply Crochet*'s exclusive Stitchionary!

We crocheters have a language all our own. With acronyms and catchy nicknames, we're able to talk to other hooksters about the many experiences unique to our craft (or to craft in general). However, this can come across as a little daunting for newbies, or for anyone who's not a part of a crafty community.

Does that sound like you? Do you find yourself scrolling through social media and watching video after video of creators talking about their crojo or frogging or playing yarn chicken... and have no idea what they're talking about? Don't fret – we're here to help with this handy glossary of crochet slang.

Before you know it, you'll be speaking in crochet lingo with the best of them!



CAL

You may have come across this abbreviation in our magazine or elsewhere in the crochet community. What on earth does it mean? A CAL is a **crochet-along**, which consists of a series of bite-sized chunks of a larger project – often a blanket – released over a period of time. Hooksters follow the pattern bit by bit, knowing there's an entire community available to help if they get stuck. And yes, we know 'crochet-along' is two words, but 'CA' just doesn't have the same ring to it.

CROJO

A portmanteau of 'crochet' and 'mojo', your **crojo** is your desire to crochet. If you've lost interest in all your projects and can't get inspired, you may have lost your crojo. Use this time to engage with other hobbies, or browse yarns and patterns (if it doesn't get you down). Sometimes inspiration lurks where you least expect it, and shows up when you stop looking.

When (not if!) something makes you want to pick up a hook, when all you want to do with your free time is sit and make something – that's your crojo saying hi.

FROGGING

If you've spent time with other crafters, in person or online, you have no doubt heard this one. It's a word that strikes fear into the hearts of crocheters and knitters alike, bringing back memories of *that* project – the one where you made a crucial error but remained oblivious for 30 rows. The jumper you couldn't get over your head. The granny stripes with uneven treble clusters.

Sometimes a crafty solution comes to you – other times, you just have to **rip it, rip it, rip it**. We suggest saying these words out loud as you unravel your work. It'll help ease the sadness, and you'll soon realise why they call it **frogging**.

HOTH

If you've just fastened off and finished your latest project, you could say it's '**hot off the hooks**'. We'll pretend we didn't see all those ends that you still need to weave in...

LYS

LYS stands for **Local Yarn Shop**. If you're looking for permission to spend money on crafting supplies, this is it! Your yarn addiction could help a small business thrive. You're basically a saint.

PROCRAFTINATION

Are you putting off something important, like emptying the dishwasher or making a phone call, to do some crochet instead? Then you are **procraftinating**.

SSS

Second sleeve syndrome (or **second sock syndrome**) is no joke. You started a project with wild abandon, but when it came to making that identical sleeve or matching sock, you suddenly lost interest. You have two options here: either bite the bullet or embrace the asymmetrical look.

STASH

Not to be confused with a stache, this well-known crochet term refers to a collection of yarn. A **stash** can be as small as a single organza bag or as large as a craft room. Or two craft rooms. Or an entire house. You could even think of your LYS as your future stash. One day... one day.

DS stands for **destash**, which typically means parting with your beloved yarn. **Stashbusting** is a concerted effort to use the yarn in your stash, without giving it away.

TOAD

"What's with all the amphibian references?" we hear you cry. This is the last one, we promise! A TOAD is a **trashed object abandoned in disgust**.

When frogging just isn't worth your time, you may be tempted to chuck the entire thing in the bin. Please don't! 'Trash' the offending project in a bag, cupboard or behind the sofa, and don't come back until you've forgotten all about it, stumbling upon this cursed make by complete accident. You might be surprised by how much your skills have improved in this time.

In the case of pattern errata, it's worth Googling to find out if anyone else has a solution, or contacting the designer. Be nice – mistakes happen, and we're only human...

YARN BARF

A yarn barf is when you pull from the centre of a ball and it 'barfs' yarn everywhere. Messy, yet very common!

YARN CHICKEN

Trying to finish the row without running out of yarn? You're playing **yarn chicken**. All's well and good if you have another ball, but if this is the last in a discontinued range, you're playing on hard mode.

YARNIVORE

Definition: you. Me. All of us. We subsist on a diet rich in fibre, which makes us proud yarnivores! Join the herd!

Written by Tricia Fairburn

WIPs, UFOs and PhDs

A work in progress, or **WIP**, can be defined as any crochet project you currently have on the go. Is it finished? No? Then it's a WIP. If you commit to just one project at a time, you're a monogamous WIPer. If you start one thing, get distracted, start something new, get bored, start another thing, then go back to the first project, that's okay too! Do what you need to do to keep your crojo alive.

UFO stands for unfinished object. Some crafters prefer WIP for its emphasis on progress. Others find UFO helps them take accountability for their ever-growing list of projects. WIPs and UFOs are often the result of procraftination and SSS.

PhDs are projects half done. If you've made some headway with your WIPs but now they're sitting in a corner looking sorry for themselves, they stop being WIPs and become PhDs. We hate to say it, but you do need to make regular progress to call something a WIP. Unlike Doctorates of Philosophy, PhDs in the craft world won't earn you a certificate. Too bad – if they did, we'd all be doctors by now!







Images: Getty

Clockwise from left: A collection of yarn, aka a 'stash'; when we say 'yarn chicken', this isn't what we mean; likewise, this is a very different type of crochet 'frogging'