# 3. Survey

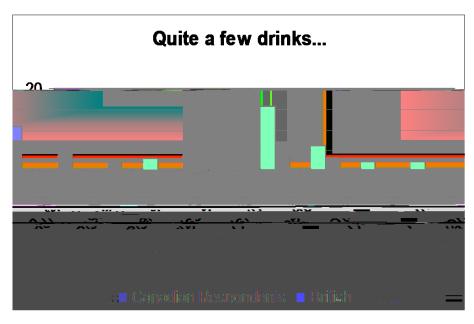
When constructing our survey, we decided to focus on university students alone. In doing this, we hoped to ensure that a particular generation or age group was at the centre of our investigation and to avoid cross-generation anomalies. Therefore the range of ages for participants was small, and so it was decided that age was not to be analysed as a factor in the vocabulary differences.

In the end, in order to concentrate on national difference, we decided to restrict our study to just two universities, one British and one Canadian. These were the University Thus each

In this section, participants were asked to give the most common words they used to describe themselves in various states of intoxication.

### Question 1

We first asked our respondents to write down the most common word they used when describing their state after just a few drinks. The most common synonym used at both universities was *tipsy*, with 15 British respondents and 10 Canadian respondents (42%) giving this reply. This was the only word that the two countries shared for this first question, with *giddy* and *hyper* being the other British responses, and

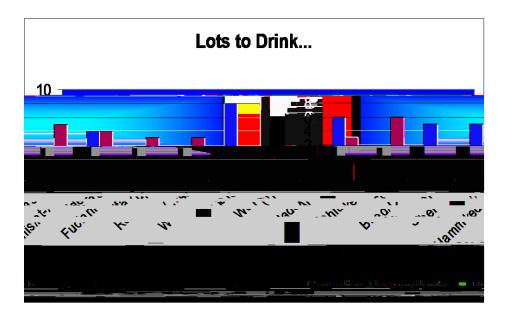


: Frequency of responses by Canadian and British students

Question 3

Our third question asked the students to provide the word they most commonly associated with the state they are in after having a lot to drink, or even too much to drink.

shows our results for the third question.



: Frequency of responses by Canadian and British students

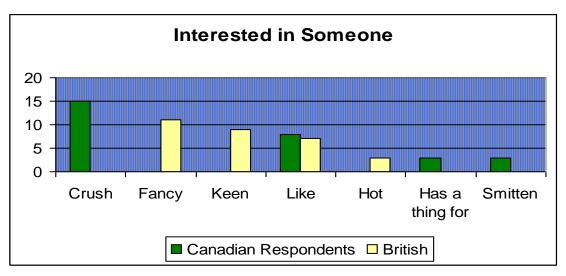
These responses proved to be much more varied, with the *other* category containing the most responses. Responses also started to become much more creative, and in some cases, vulgar. *Fucked* and *wasted* proved to be common in both countries, whilst words specific to countries included *wankered* and *rat-arsed* for the UK, and *hammered*, and *bladdered* for Canadian respondents. Only Canadian respondents seemed to come up with unique answers (*Other* responses), whereas the UK respondents seemed to have a smaller range of common synonyms.

## 4.2 Section 2: Dating

In this section, participants were asked to give the word they associated with various dating scenarios.

## Question 1

The first question asked respondents to provide the word they used when they were interested in dating someone. Respondents in both Canada and the UK used the word *like,* whilst the most popular result was the Canadian-only response of *crush,* which constituted 25% of the overall results. shows the results for this question.



: Frequency of responses by Canadian and British students

#### Question 2

Participants were asked in the second question of the dating section to offer the word they most often associated with short-term relationships. Both *dating* (42%) and *seeing someone* (20%) were shared between the UK and Canada, whilst other terms, including *boyfriend/girlfriend* and *fling*, were not. below illustrates the results we collected for question 2.

terms more often than Canadian students. third question.

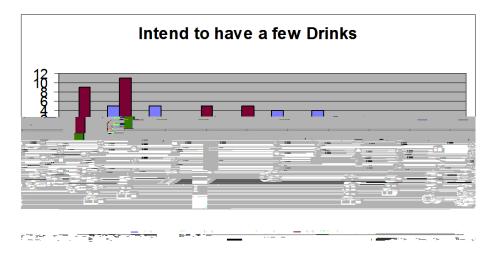
below shows the results for our



: Frequency of responses by Canadian and British students

### Question 4

In this question, we asked our participants to provide the word which they used when intending to go out but only have a few drinks. *A couple* and *a few* were terms used by British and Canadian respondents, again, however, more commonly by UK students. As in the *Intoxication* section of this survey (see 4.1 above), it seemed that students tended to get creative with their lexis when discussing drinking alcohol. illustrates the results that we gathered for this question.



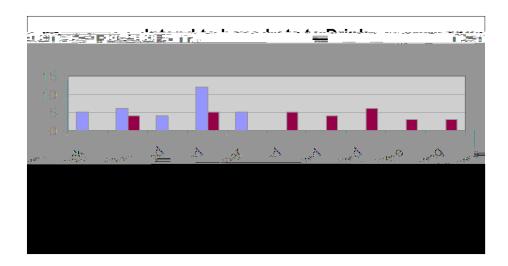
: Frequency of responses by Canadian and British

students

## Question 5

For our final question, we asked our respondents which word they used when discussing going out intending to drink a lot. *Get hammered* and *get wasted* were given by both Canadian and UK students, although this time, it was the Canadians who were more likely to respond with one of these shared and most popular terms: over 50 per cent of Canadian respondents said *get wasted* or *get hammered*. Most other Canadians used a term not given by more than one person, whereas the British offered a variety of terms each used by at least two students.

Shows the results our fifth question in the going out and partying section.



: Frequency of responses by Canadian and British

students

## 5. Results By Gender

When comparing our results by gender, we had expected to see some sort of pattern in each of the categories. However, no significant pattern could be found. There was a minor discrepancy in the number of different words used by males and females in the categories dealing with consuming alcohol, with males as a group having a more copious vocabulary for describing their state, or intention to get to a certain state, of intoxication. Additionally, when males gave a variety of answers to a certain question, they also began to use more vulgar terms. This slight trend seemed to occur when dealing with higher amounts of alcohol being consumed. It was almost as respondents became drunker when responding to our questions.

One final thing we noticed is that females tended to have slightly more varied responses when it came to relationships. However, these varied responses were definitely not as vulgar as the male responses to alcohol-related questions. The

Students tended to become more eccentric and creative with their lexis as the situations they were presented with became increasingly extreme. It seemed that participants wanted to inject a sense of humour into situations, perhaps to make anecdotes that reflected upon them appear funnier.
Ball, Courtney and Jennifer Van Harten. (2003). You Were <i>What</i> Last Night? A Look at Synonyms for Intoxication. In W. Guyitt (Ed.) <i>Strathy Undergraduate Working Papers on Canadian English</i> (Vol. 4, pp. 29-45).
would greatly appreciate your participation in this survey. Our aim is to compare synonyms for various social situations in Scotland and Canada.
Your participation is completely voluntary. You can opt out at any point during the survey.
The survey is anonymous, but we will need to know some general information about you.
Mother's first language:
Father's first language:

Please write the word which you use most frequently for each situation.

needs to be as accurate as possible. If you find it easier to answer with a sentence containing the word, feel free to do so.

First few drinks -Quite a few drinks -Lots to drink -

Interested in someone Short term Long term

Intend to meet up with a small group of friends
Intend to go to a party at a house
Intend to go to a club
Intend to have a few drinks
Intend to have a lot to drink