

The Charva Guide

How to be a charver

Lesson 1: Borrowing A Tab

WITHIN MINUTES of arriving in Newcastle you will encounter the legendary Geordie hospitality, when a complete stranger approaches you with his right hand extended. "Lenz a tab," he'll say.

You have made a pal, and he is suggesting you cement the friendship with the long-term loan of a cigarette. You, in turn, are obliged to lend him one.

This routine will happen every time you venture out in Newcastle. So if you don't smoke, now's a good time to start.

The 'friendliest' types are young lads wearing colourful sportswear and a "nipa" behind their ear, who sound as though they're talking through their left nostril.

When he says "Lenz a tab," you will reply "nee bother, charver." He'll be sure to look out for you in future.

He may have a female with him. She'll also be wearing sportswear, dripping with gold-coloured jewellery. The fringe of her yellow hair will have been carefully sprayed over a coke tin until it's twice the size of her head. She is known as a Kappa Slapper – or "me bewer."

In this case you will offer two cigarettes. And if you're feeling particularly gregarious, add the words "bet she gans like the clappaz." Your wit will be noted.

Now that you understand this easy piece of etiquette, why not try it yourself?

Simply walk up to a stranger in a bar or on a bus, lean close to their face, and say the words:

"Lenz a tab."

Better still, try it on everyone you pass in the street – you'll be surprised at the interesting situations this can lead to.

And you'll know when you've met a true kindred spirit, when they reply "Ah was ganna ask yee."

Lesson 2: Getting Drunk

The twin vices of the Charver are drink and drugs – although the peeve¹ is slightly harder to obtain than tack². This is because charvers are too young to get into pubs, which means hanging around outside the offie until someone can be 'persuaded' to go in and buy their bottles.

So first of all, choose your shop and position yourself by the doorway, but out sight of the owner. If spotted you'll have to nash³, because he'll assume you're on the chaw⁴. You could be there for some time, so why not while away the hours with a bit hockling?

All charver's hockle⁵ – it's as natural as breathing. It also enables them to find their friends, by simply following the trail of phlegm from the shop to the bus shelter, and back.

You should have a decent-sized pool at your feet before some dafty⁶ agrees to make your purchase.

Charvers have a varied palate, in that they're not fussy what they drink. But most aim to get monged⁷ for less than three bar⁸, so it's got to be cheap.

Fortunately, this market is well catered for. Many favour speccy⁹, a bottle of which will rip your wires out for a couple of bar. Similar tipples include White Lightning, Zodiac and Storm. The names hint at the damage they'll inflict on your brain.

Wine is popular with the Bella**10** Boys, who have seen the state of imbecility tramps manage to achieve, on a couple of bottles. Basically, any white wine with a name ending in ‘brusco’ is considered too nasty for general consumption, and is knocked out to alkie and charvers at around a quid a bottle. Double cush**11**. You’ll need somewhere to do your drinking, and a bus shelter is just the job.

TRANSLATOR

- 1 PEEVE** Alcoholic. Also, to drink: "I was proper peeved-up."
- 2 TACK** Hashish, usually of a very poor quality
- 3 NASH** To move swiftly: "He proper did a nash when me fatha came home"
- 4 CHAW** To steal
- 5 HOCKLE** Spit
- 6 DAFTY** Thick or gullible person
- 7 MONGED** Off one’s head
- 8 BAR** An English pound: "Me fine was only fowty-bar."
- 9 SPECCY** Spectrum cider, cheap and nasty
- 10 BELLA** Bella Brusco, a vile white wine
- 11 DOUBLE CUSH** Very good. Also ‘pure cush’, or simply ‘cush’
- 12 CRIB** Where a charver sleeps: "Am gan yairm to me crib."

Charver Dictionary	
alfie	To inform an authority about somebody's actions " <i>y' puarly alfied on us</i> "
a'narrh	I know
belta	Used for expressing how good something is " <i>that car's puarly belta</i> "
bizzies	Police officers
chaw	To steal
chiv	Knife, or to stab someone
clivva	Clever, or healthy. " <i>I'm not feeling ower clivva today.</i> "
couple-on	Leave a tiny bit on a cigarette
cowie	Drug, usually a pill
crib	Where a Charver sleeps " <i>Am gan hyem to me crib</i> "
cush	Or cushty. Cool
daint	South Tyneside charverese, meaning ‘don’t’
doiler	Idiot
eeenaar	Female Charver: " <i>Have y' gorra tab?</i> " " <i>Eeee. Naaar.</i> "
fog	First
fog-on	Polite request to finish someone else’s cigarette
friskin'	To joke. " <i>I was only friskin' ya man</i> "
geet	Very large: " <i>He was a proper geet bloke</i> "
git	To exaggerate something. " <i>You're git thick, you</i> "
graft	On your way to steal something
grief	To be giving someone hassle, to be grief'n someone
heed the baal	Lunatic
hew	Can be pronounced ‘how’, used at the end of most sentences
hoisty	Stolen car
hoo man	Excuse me
hor	That lady over there
hotching	Stinking

hoy	Hey you! " <i>Hoy, man.</i> "
hoy	To throw. " <i>Hoy it arriz.</i> "
hoy	To go on the piss. " <i>Am gan on the hoy – y'cummin?</i> "
kappa slappa	Female Charver
keep toot	Act as a look-out
ken	Charver's home
ket	Kiddies' confectionery
knaa	To know " <i>ya knaa what i just did?</i> "
ladgeful	Used for expressing how bad something is. " <i>She's fuckin' ladgeful hor, man</i> "
lowie	Money
lush	Lovely
maa	Mother
mazzies	Temazapan, a prescription drug mixed with alcohol which will mong out a Charver
mental, mental, chicken oriental	Used as an expression of enthusiasm
meth	Calling someone, to be a meth, or methin'
minging	Smelly
mint	Good/great: " <i>That's mint, man.</i> "
mission/mish	To be going somewhere, perhaps on the rob
Monday book	Child allowance
monged	Off one's head, usually due to drink or drugs
mullered	Drunk
mortal	Very drunk
mug	Foolish person, easily led " <i>he's pure mugged out</i> "
narrrh	Nasal sound which can mean 'no' or 'know' " <i>A didn't narrrh y'had narrrh tabs</i> "
nash	To move swiftly " <i>He proper did a nash when me da turned up</i> "
ned	Glaswegian Charver. (Non-educated delinquent)
nee botha	No problem
nippa	Partly-smoked cigarette, worn behind ear
n'that	Etc. Can be used as a full stop at the end of any sentence
numpty	Not a very bright person
offie	Off license. Place to purchase alcohol, place of worship for charvers
pasty baby	Child of a Charver lass, so-called because of all the crumbs and mess around them, from their staple diet
peeve	Alcoholic drink. " <i>He was proper peeved-up last neet.</i> "
puar	From the English word pure. Puar and puarly are used to emphasise something. " <i>It's puarly mint, man</i> "
proper	An adjective to be used anywhere in a sentence. " <i>He's a proper radgee</i> "
radgee	Can be used as a noun, adjective or verb. Use where, when and as often as you like.
rockies	Rockport shoes
scran	Food
shan	Not very good

sharon	The female of the charver species.
skankin	Foul-smelling, bad, stinking
skitzy	Mental person, or monger
skwark	The high pitch vocalisation made by a sharon.
snide	Counterfeit or false
snout	Cigarette
spacka boot	Platform shoe
spark	To hit someone
tack	Smokeable narcotic of dubious strength
tatie	Potatoe, or a stupid person
tickhead	Wearer of a Nike baseball cap
TWOC	Taken Without Owners Consent, the term used to steal a car
waxa	See belta
whitey	Temporary illness due to excessive alcohol or tack intake <i>"he proper hoyed a whitey"</i>
why aye, chicken pie	Indication of agreement
workid	"our kid", but used to greet anyone <i>"y'alreet workid?"</i>

miss
charver accessories



throat jewellery

You fancy a certain little radgie - but he can't take his eyes off your fringe? Then let one of these pendants work its magic charms. Made from shiny metal and recently modelled on catwalks and dole queues from Byker to Battle Hill, they'll set last week's love-bites off perfectly - and will soon have your new lad gnawing at your neck.



finger jewellery



Bored with last year's finger fashions? It's time to cover those N.U.F.C. and A.C.A.B. tattoos with a few sovereign rings. They make a sophisticated 'ching' when you pick up your bottle of Bella Brusco. And - used properly - they'll take the side of the face off anyone who makes a move on you, your bottle, or your lad. Young mums can invest in their bairn's future. They make classy bracelets for babies aged 0-3 months.



throat jewellery



Who wants to stand out from the crowd? You'll only get picked on. The simplest way to look like every other swearing, spitting, Sharon on your estate is to wear hoops - and wear 'em big. Who cares if your ear lobes are hanging lower than your tits by the time you're twenty? Make sure the hoops are big enough to fit over your head - including your fringe - and worry about the permanent disfigurement when you're more grown-up.



Life Studies

NAME: Danielle



AGE: 16

LIVES: With mam and her boyfriend in flat in Elswick

WEARS: Kappa top, Kappa pants and Reebok trainers,

ACCESSORIES: Hair piled up with gold ruffle, several kilos of gold chains around neck, sovereign rings, loads of orange makeup and a tab.

CAR: Boyfriend Darren's Y-reg Fiesta (the 'Shaggin' Wagon')

HOBBIES: Making sure "me fringe" is always perfect, chewing gum (even when eating chips), going to me mates, going nowhere

MUSIC: Happy Hardcore. Hates Indie music

TELLY: Big Breakfast, Home & Away and Emmerdale

FILMS: Action movies 'cos Darren likes them

SPORT: I forge a sick note to get off games at school

FOOD: Chips & gravy from the Chinkies, me mam's dinners, Burger King burgers

HOLIDAYS: Going to Ibiza next year if I get a job

DRINK & DRUGS: Castaway & Diamond White (with a straw), Embassy Regal and some tack if Darren's got any

NAME: Greavesy



AGE: 15

LIVES: With mam and girlfriend Kelly-Marie, on Harms Way, Bensham

WEARS: Nike top (XL), tracky bottoms tucked into white socks, Air Jordan sneaks, checky cloth cap, nippa behind left ear

CAR: Can take owt you want from one

HABITS & HOBBIES: Filling bus shelters with spit and tab-ends, setting pet Staffy on students and Goths, The Toon

MUSIC: Not fussed – them Steps are worth a shag

TELLY: The Bill, Toon on Sky Sports

FILMS: Nah, prefer vids

SPORT: Pool, fighting, The Toon

FOOD: McCain's Micro Chips, instant mash & baked beans, pickled onion crisps

HOLIDAYS: School one (Jan – Dec), occasional day trips to MetroCentre on the thieve

DRINK & DRUGS: Bit of tack, big bottle of Tango (for bong), Bella Brusco with White Lightning, pack of Drum a day

NAME: Tiffany (girl mates call her Tiff, boy mates call here Fanny)



AGE: 20

WORK: Mother and homemaker

LIVES: In council house with daughter Chantelle and boyfriend Wayne. Wayne's other daughter, Tamara, lives with his ex-wife. House has leaded windows, Austrian blinds, outside lights front and back, satellite dish, supermarket trolley and old carpet in garden

DAY WEAR: Naff Naff T-shirt, Sweater Shop cardigan, leggings and flip-flops. A Berghaus coat for when it's less than seventy-degrees

EVENING WEAR: Anything tight and short and easy to get off

CAR: Benwell Taxis

HABITS & HOBBIES: Benson & Hedges, Wrigleys, sitting on dining chair on front step, talking to Sharon next door. Friday nights, Bigg Market

TELEVISION: Anything on Sky

FILMS: Anything on Sky Movie

SPORTS: Toon on Sky Sports, W.W.F.

FOOD: Something from Netto after collecting Chantelle from nursery.

HOLIDAYS: Spain next year with Wayne

DRINK & DRUGS: Bottle of white wine before going out, some tack and a few trebs. Cushty.

