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# The Hipster Handbook

By Robert Lanham



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hip•ster - *hip*-stur (s) n. One who possesses tastes, social attitudes, and opinions deemed cool by the cool. (Note: it is no longer recommended that one use the term "cool"; a Hipster would instead say "deck.") The Hipster walks among the masses in daily life but is not a part of them and shuns or reduces to kitsch anything held dear by the mainstream. A Hipster ideally possesses no more than 2% body fat.

### Clues You Are a Hipster

1. You graduated from a liberal arts school whose football team hasn't won a game since the Reagan administration.
2. You frequently use the term "postmodern" (or its commonly used variation "PoMo") as an adjective, noun, and verb.
3. You carry a shoulder-strap messenger bag and have at one time or another worn a pair of horn-rimmed or Elvis Costello-style glasses.
4. You have refined taste and consider yourself exceptionally cultured, but have one pop vice (ElimiDATE, Quiet Riot, and *Entertainment Weekly* are popular ones) that helps to define you as well-rounded.
5. You have kissed someone of the same gender and often bring this up in casual conversation.
6. You spend much of your leisure time in bars and restaurants with monosyllabic names like Plant, Bound, and Shine.
7. You bought your dishes and a checkered tablecloth at a thrift shop to be kitschy, and often throw vegetarian dinner parties.
8. You have one Republican friend whom you always describe as being your "one Republican friend."
9. You enjoy complaining about gentrification even though you are responsible for it yourself.
10. Your hair looks best unwashed and you position your head on your pillow at night in a way that will really maximize your cowlicks.

11. You own records put out by Matador, DFA, Definitive Jux, Dischord, Warp, Thrill Jockey, Smells Like Records, and Drag City.

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## The Hipster Handbook By Robert Lanham Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Just as *The Official Preppy Handbook* exposed wearers of Lacoste polos and drinkers of Bloody Marys, Lanham's new book delves into the lives of those who deem themselves too cool for school. Hipsters, he says, are the ones you see around town smoking European cigarettes, wearing platform shoes and reading biographies of Che Guevara. Lanham, editor of the site [FreeWilliamsburg.com](http://FreeWilliamsburg.com) (Williamsburg being a favorite New York City hipster enclave), does his best to dissect the personality types, the hangouts, the colleges and even the facial hair of the modern-day Hipster. There's no main narrative per se, rather a prolonged pastiche of sarcastic observances and witty asides. And in a clever marketing gimmick, Lanham compiles a raft of lists detailing crucial Hipster music (including the Beastie Boys record *Paul's Boutique*) and literature (Nick Hornby's *High Fidelity*), which are sure to spark debate. Topping it off is a questionnaire, to suss out whether or not you could qualify for Hipsterdom (e.g., if you subscribe to *Wallpaper*, you're in; if *Maxim's* more your speed, you're out). The truly hip wouldn't touch this with a 10-foot pole, of course, but they aren't really Lanham's target.

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## Review

"The Hipster Handbook. . .proves that behind every goatee, shaggy hairdo and baggy blouse, there's still a lot of preening."

-- *The New York Times*

"**The Hipster Handbook** is your official guide to the language, culture and style of hipsters young and old.... There's even a dating guide for various hipster combinations." --*Los Angeles Times*

"Describes everything cool—the slang, the dress code, the career path, greetings and (of course) taste in music kids from the Inner Mission to Williamsburg ascribe to—in pitch-perfect detail.... [T]his guy clearly has some insider information himself. Gently teasing and hilarious." --*Philadelphia Weekly*

"**The Hipster Handbook** is *The Official Preppy Handbook* for people who wear Atari T-shirts." --*Esquire*

## From the Inside Flap

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Percy Cole:**

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important action, like looking for your favorite book and reading a guide. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled The Hipster Handbook. Try to make the book The Hipster Handbook as your pal. It means that it can to be your friend when you feel alone and beside those of course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , we need to make new experience and also knowledge with this book.

#### **Robert Bell:**

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#### **Melvin Dove:**

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**Josephine Draughn:**

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