

Railroad Lingo

"All black, well stacked, goin' down the track clickity clack": The train looked good as it passed the station.

Piglet: Engineer Trainee

Zombie: A slang term for reusing a locomotive's frame and trucks (wheel-axle-frame assembly)

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Bloody Nose: Southern Pacific locomotive where the nose of the engine was painted bright red.

"On the high iron, let the big dogs walk": The caboose is over the switch and on the mainline so open the throttle all the way on the locomotives.

Big hole: When a train suffers a loss of all brake air and stops (e.g. over the radio: "We just big holed.")

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Black Widow: A locomotive that is black with silver

Hogger or hoghead: Engineer

Brakeman, brakie, pinner, pinhead, baby lifter: A member of a railroad train's crew responsible for assisting with braking a train when the conductor wants the train to slow down. Also referred to as

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Speeder, motorcar, trackcar, putt putt, or golf cart: A small, motorized track inspection vehicle

Catch a dog: Catch a slow moving train.

Dog Catch: A crew sent to relieve a crew that has worked the legal limit.

Caller: A person whose job it is to call out a train crew. E.g. "The caller called a dog catch to catch a dog."

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Double-Heading: Two engines moving one train.

Varnish: A slang term for wooden passenger cars that had glossy varnish on them.

Reefer: A refrigerator car

Espee: a nickname given to the Southern Pacific (SP) railroad by rail fans.

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In the hole: The siding where a train waits for another to pass

"Dump the air": Emergency application of the air brakes causing a train to stop abruptly

Grip: Trainman's suitcase

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Light engine: A locomotive (engine) traveling to a destination without a train attached.

Gandy Dancer: A track worker

Lantern: A portable (often handheld) light source that is used to signal train crews

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Highball: A signal to operate a train at full speed, "Highball it out of here!"

Pull the pin and roll: Unhook so we can get out of here!

Mosey Speed: When you approach the limit of your track warrant and have not received a new warrant, you mosey up to the limit prepared to stop.

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Lightning Slinger: A railroad telegraph operator

Quiet zone: Don't blow the horn

Restricted speed: A speed not exceeding 20 mph which allows stopping within half the range of vision short of an obstruction on the tracks

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"On the ground" Term for a derailed train

Running a red signal: An event in which a train passes a signal to stop without authorization to do so.

Roadmaster: The person responsible for railroad track maintenance

The "Bloody Nose" Locomotive



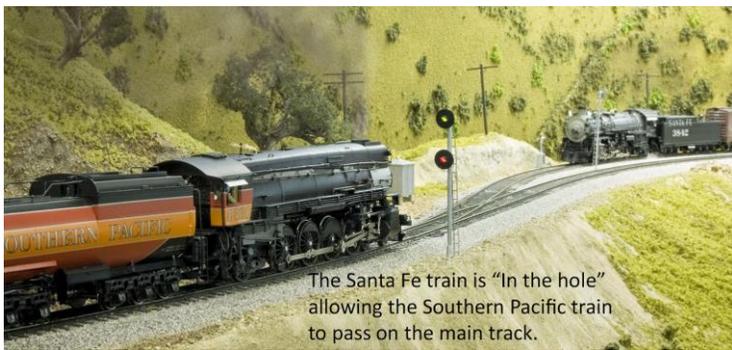
All black, well stacked, goin' down the track clickity clack



Railroad Track Car



"Black Widow"



The Santa Fe train is "In the hole" allowing the Southern Pacific train to pass on the main track.

Double Heading



Light Engine



"We are on the ground!"



Lightening Slinger!

