**15 Words interpreted differently in CHICAGO**

Adapted from <http://www.buzzfeed.com/laraparker/words-that-have-a-different-meaning-that-have-a-different#.xdXxmwdNp>

by Laura Parker

**Soldier**

**What it usually means:** A person who serves in the military.  
**What it means in Chicago:** A place where the Chicago Bears either serve up a good beating, or a place that serves up a lot of angry drivers and traffic, depending on the Sunday.

**Coach**

**What it usually means:** A person who coaches a team.  
**What it means in Chicago:** Mike Ditka, who you’d best respect if you do not want to be disowned by your dad, or if you ever want to be served at a South Side establishment ever again.

**The L**

**What it usually means:** The twelfth letter of the alphabet.  
**What it means in Chicago:** A train with that you have the biggest love/hate relationship of your life.

**Winter**

**What it means everywhere else:** A season lasting from mid-December   
to early March.  
**What it means in Chicago:** Half a dozen months that will possibly never end, usually starting around Halloween and going until April.

**Boot**

**What it usually means:** A type of shoe you wear on your foot.  
**What it means in Chicago:** A type of shoe your car gets to wear on its foot if your meter runs out/you’re about to have a particularly terrible day.

**Dibs**

**What it usually means:** Claiming that something is yours like the front seat on a road trip.   
**What it means in Chicago:** Claiming that a space you spent all morning digging out of the snow is yours by sticking a piece of lawn furniture on it, which then may or may not be run over by another car, anyway.

**Shorts Weather**

**What it means everywhere else:** Warm summer days of above 70 degrees.  
**What it means in Chicago:** 40 degrees.

**Time Zone**

**What it means everywhere else:** Imaginary lines causing the time to change after a long distance is travelled.   
**What it means in Chicago:** Imaginary lines causing the time to change after a short drive to the East.

**The Region**

**What it means everywhere else:** An area of space on a map.   
**What it means in Indiana:** The area surrounding Chicago, often used by Hoosiers in the Northern part of the state to describe where they live; also see: Chicagoland.

**Pizza**

**What it means everywhere else:** A delicious food.  
**What it means in the Chicago:** DEEP. DISH.

**The Bean**

**What it usually means:** A food that makes you, you know—(fart.)  
**What it means in Chicago:** Art.

**The Beach**

**What it usually means:** A tropical sandy paradise by the sea.  
**What it means in Chicago:** Some sand by Lake Michigan, which is always freezing, but still basically heaven when it is 98 degrees outside.

**Cheese**

**What it means everywhere else:** A dairy product that tastes delicious.  
**What it means in Chicago:** A fan base from that one team up north.

**April**

**What it usually means:** Spring.  
**What it means in Chicago:** Spring… J/K STILL WINTER HAHAHAHA all your new flowers are now dead.

**The Second City**

**What it usually means:** Chicago.  
**What it means in Chicago:** New York.