

# English Dialects and Accents. What are They?

Made by Volkova Maria and Pravilyeva Daria



# I Topic Preview



Most people think of an accent as something that other people have. The truth is that everyone has an accent, because an accent is simply a way of pronouncing words. Each group of people has a different way of pronouncing the same words. In other words, accent is all about sound.

When it comes to changes in vocabulary in different regions, then you're talking about dialect. Dialect refers to differences in accent, grammar and vocabulary among different versions of a language. It is likely that when you speak in the dialect of a particular region, you will also speak in the accent of a particular region. However, incomers may speak the dialect of a region with a different accent. This may also apply to people who have emigrated from one country to another. They may speak a different form of a language from those born in that country.

The variety of English known as standard English uses a certain type of grammar and vocabulary which is taught to students of English all over the world. They may speak with a different accent, but the dialect is basically the same.

## In your notebook, answer the following questions:

1. What dialects do you know?
2. What is the difference between a dialect and an accent?
3. Is it an advantage or a disadvantage when the language has a number of accents and dialects? Support your point of view.



## II Vocabulary Preview



2.1 These are some words and phrases you will face through the whole work. Copy them into your notebook and translate them.

variety of a language  
sociolect  
prosody  
phonology  
accent  
standard language  
jargons

argots  
slang  
patois  
pidgins  
idiolect  
standard dialect



nonstandard dialect  
speech community  
vernacular  
to epitomize  
convergence  
BBC English

## 2.2 Read the text . Translate the sentences containing words in *italics*



### Dialect

The term dialect (from the Greek Language word *dialektos*, Διάλεκτος) is used in two distinct ways, even by linguists. One usage refers to *a variety of a language* that is a characteristic of a particular group of the language's speakers. The term is applied most often to regional speech patterns, but a dialect may also be defined by other factors, such as social class. A dialect that is associated with a particular social class can be termed a *sociolect*;



A dialect is distinguished by its vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation (*phonology*, including *prosody*). Where a distinction can be made only in terms of pronunciation, the term *accent* is appropriate, not dialect. Other speech varieties include: *standard languages*, which are standardized for public performance, jargons, which are characterized by differences in lexicon (vocabulary); *slang*; *patois*; *pidgins* or *argots*.

The particular speech patterns used by an individual are termed an *idiolect*.

### Standard and non-standard dialect

A *standard dialect* (also known as a standardized dialect or "standard language") is a dialect that is supported by institutions. Such institutional support may include government recognition or designation; presentation as being the "correct" form of a language in schools; published grammars, dictionaries, and textbooks that set forth a "correct" spoken and written form; and an extensive formal literature that employs that dialect (prose, poetry, non-fiction, etc.).



A *nonstandard dialect*, like a standard dialect, has a complete vocabulary, grammar, and syntax, but is not the beneficiary of institutional support. An example of a nonstandard English dialect is Southern American English or Newfoundland English.

### "Dialect" or "language"

There is no universally accepted criterion for distinguishing a language from a dialect. The distinction is therefore subjective and depends on the user's frame of reference.

Language varieties are often called dialects rather than languages: because they have no standard or codified form, because the speakers of the given language do not have a state of their own, because they are rarely or never used in writing (outside reported speech) or because they lack prestige with respect to some other, often standardized, variety. Anthropological linguists define dialect as the specific form of a language used by a *speech community*.

In other words, the difference between language and dialect is the difference between the abstract or general and the concrete and particular. From this perspective, no one speaks a "language," everyone speaks a dialect of a language. Those who identify a particular dialect as the "standard" or "proper" version of a language are in fact using these terms to express a social distinction.



## 2.3 complete the sentences using words from the vocabulary.



Someone who speaks with a particular \_\_\_\_\_ pronounces the words of a language in a distinctive way that shows which country, region, or social class they come from.

In Cockney rhyming \_\_\_\_\_, "apples and pears" means "stairs".

There is a \_\_\_\_\_ between capitalist firms and co-operatives in terms of business strategy.

Efforts were made to extend \_\_\_\_\_ education.  
the company \_\_\_\_\_ the problems faced by British industry.

He's at ease speaking \_\_\_\_\_ with the factory workers and guys on the docks.

In linguistics, \_\_\_\_\_ is the study of speech sounds in a particular language.

the salience of \_\_\_\_\_ in child language acquisition

The manual is full of the \_\_\_\_\_ and slang of self-improvement courses.

Is this word part of your \_\_\_\_\_?

\_\_\_\_\_ is a way of pronouncing British English that is often used as a standard in the Teaching of English as a Foreign Language

# Listening



## 3.1 Listen to the lecture and choose the correct answer.

### Part 1



1. It's more likely that standard varieties and dialects:

- a) Emerged from people who took Standard English and changed it;
- b) Developed from some common and some locally distinctive influences over time;
- c) Were created synthetically.

2. In this lecture accent denotes:

- a) Features of pronunciation;
- b) Features that give a distinct visual emphasis to something;
- c) A mark on a letter or word to indicate pitch, stress or vowel quality.

3. Dialect describes:

- a) A particular version of programming language;
- b) A language variety where a user's regional or social background appears in his or her use of vocabulary and grammar;
- c) Vernacular language varieties.

### Part 2



1. The term "Estuary" reflects:

- a) The region
- b) The epoch
- c) The nationality

2. The primary characteristics of cockney dialect include:

- a) the dropping of the letter "H", the use of double negatives;
- b) glottalling, using a glottal stop;
- c) absence of adverb marking



### Part 3



1. RP English is the language of:

- a) Barristers, stockbrokers and diplomats;
- b) Bank clerks and managers;
- c) Journalists.

2. The phrase "King's English" was first used during the reign of:

- a) James I
- b) William the Conqueror
- c) Henry III



**CORRECT!!!**







**WRONG!!! TRY AGAIN!!!**



### 3.2 Listen to the whole lecture again. In your notebooks write true or false for each sentence.



- 1) Without the notion of Standard English, we may find it easy to identify anything as a dialect at all.
- 2) Cockney speech can be extremely difficult to understand, especially for Americans, as it is littered with word replacements thanks to rhyming slang, cultural references, and shifts in vowels and consonants.
- 3) The term Estuary English was coined in 1984 by David Rosewarne.
- 4) Until the 1997 RP English was the accent of broadcast BBC and radio stations.
- 5) As discussed in the general sociolinguistic issues section,

RP is an accent that is not localizable but is very recognizable as being the standard, neutral accent of the society.

- 6) The younger members of the royal family speak RP closer to conservative accent.
- 7) The younger members of the Royal Family attempt to close the gap between the Royal Family and the "subjects" of the country, their speech reflects the changes.

# IV Reviewing the content



## 4.1 Answer the following questions.

1. To what effects can supposed dialects and their naming lead?
2. What does word “Cockney” refer to?
3. What are primary characteristics of Cockney?
4. What does the word “Standard” according to Barrie Rhodes mean?



5. What definition does David Rosewarne give to the term “Estuary English”?
6. What is the reason for the growth of Estuary English among young people?
7. What does the term “Received” mean?

# V. EXTENSION



## 5.1 Watch the [video](#)





# UNIT COMPLETED



**THANK YOU FOR COOPERATION!**