

Cockney

Dialect of the Day

The “Cockney” dialect

The *Cockney dialect* is a very famous dialect of the UK because it is *associated with London* and for the *Cockney Rhyming Slang* that goes along with it.

Technically, Cockney is only truly spoken in one *small area of East London*, however you may hear it over a wider range of places in London.

Location

London is located here (Cockney is spoken in East London)



Popularity

Cockney is currently a popular accent in **Hollywood movies**, mainly due to its association with the image of **British gangsters**.

It is **considered an informal accent**, and very different to the more formal RP, which is also spoken in parts of London. Cockney is therefore considered a very **working class** dialect.

Unique Features

- The most unique feature of cockney is the *glottal stop*. (*A bit of butter- a bi' o' bu'-ar'*)
- The th sound becomes like an f *thing-fing*
- The /aʊ/* sound changes often to sound more like /e ə/:

how-hair

now-nair

brown- brairn

cow-cair

Famous Cockneys

Perhaps the most famous Cockney is Michael Caine:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rX0F3kY3uxU>
- Ray Winstone is also famous for speaking Cockney
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vP4f95AK8L4>

Cockney Rhyming Slang

Cockney Rhyming Slang is perhaps even more famous than the unique pronunciation of Cockney, and is famous throughout the world.

What is it?

Cockney Rhyming Slang is a form of slang, almost like a code, that is most commonly spoken in one area of East London.

It involves **saying a word**, that means another completely different thing just **because it rhymes with another word**.

For example:

Britney Spears *means* Beers

Confusion

The main confusion with Cockney Rhyming Slang is that the rhyming word is **often dropped**. So;

Would you like a Britney **Spears?**

becomes

Would you like a Britney?

(notice the dropped 'Spears,' the important word)

This makes it very confusing, because it relies on knowing every example, or being able to figure it out logically. This is the reason why Rhyming Slang is like a code, which was probably its original use.

Other examples

Adam and Eve	Believe	Would you Adam and Eve it?
Alligator	Later	See you later alligator.
Apples and Pears	Stairs	Get up those apples to bed!
Army and Navy	Gravy	Pass the army, will you?
Bacon and Eggs	Legs	She has such long bacons.
Barnet Fair	Hair	I'm going to have my barnet cut.
Bees and Honey	Money	Hand over the bees.
Biscuits and Cheese	Knees	Ooh! What knobbly biscuits!
Butcher's Hook	Look	I had a butchers at it

Links

http://www.fun-with-words.com/crs_example.html

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dEtOuytUAe8>