

English Dialects The UK



LANGUAGE LEVEL: **Intermediate**

RADIO: **15 minutes**

AV NO: **100288/ra1**

WORKSHEETS: **can be downloaded from
www.ur.se/engelska**

STUDENT'S BOOK: **16-17**

Contents

English remains the international language of communication – just look at the internet! Yet how English sounds can be very different. You're probably familiar with the Received Pronunciation (R.P. – the "standard" English pronunciation based on the accent of south east England, also known as the "Queen's English") – but how about Cockney, Scottish or the many varieties in between? Accompany our reporter as she records the *vox populi* (voice of the people) of the British Isles. Find out how different English can sound and why it has changed through time and region. So if you want to visit major cities in England, you will want to know what a Mancunian sounds like, or a Cockney, a Geordie, a Makem, a Brummie or a Scouser for that matter.

Purpose

- To increase comprehension by exposing students to different dialects of English as spoken regions of the British Isles;
- To learn some history about how language has evolved

Ideas for using the programme

Scripts, wordlists and activity worksheets are available on-line. Review the word-lists, but watch the programme without the scripts. You can later refer to the scripts when resolving language problems. The answers to the worksheet questions are:

1) pub, 2) bottle, 3) beers, 4) mate (friend) 5) phone, 6) wife, 7) sister, 8) curry, 9) plimsoles, trainers (dap is the sound they make) 10) an idiot or stupid person – a numbskull

Tips

For an excellent resource on British English regional accents and dialects, visit the British Museum Sounds Familiar website and listen to the many sound samples www.bl.uk/learning/langlit/sounds/index.html

There are some samples recorded in the 1950s (of people born in 1870s interviewed) – very interesting – and very difficult for an English born person to understand! For example, John Perle (born 1872) sounds like someone speaking Middle English.

www.bl.uk/learning/langlit/sounds/text-only/england/wearhead/

For some fun, watch the wonderful 1970s British comedy *Mind your Language*, which is based on national stereotypes. This half episode is based on Cockney rhyming slang and a very funny debate on television.

PART 1

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Biat5Bog5yY&mode=related&search=

PART 2

www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xxoyYjaYOI

CREDITS

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