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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 05/10/16

English regional accents to die out – urban accents to increase

A report analysing language trends from the past 50 years has been published by dialect coach, Brendan Gunn, and Dr Dominic Watt of York University, who is a sociolinguistic expert. The two looked at major modern cultural influences, to help predict what the future might sound like.

The analysis said that English regional accents are likely to die out in 50 years. Whereas, urban dialects are likely to rise, in big cities like Birmingham, Manchester, and Glasgow. The Queen's English could soon be a thing of the past, due to immigration. Multicultural London English, which incorporates pronunciations from West African, Caribbean, and Asian communities, will spread across the regions.

Technology will contribute to significant linguistic changes. Voice recognition is becoming the main way we interact with machines. Virtual reality assistants will influence speech patterns, and erase regional accents.

Speech will be used more for interaction with digital devices, cars, and household devices. This will smooth out accents. Amazon has already started shipping its Echo speaker, which allows families to communicate with household devices through a virtual reality assistant.

American English will be increasingly prominent, due to many computing innovations coming from California. LOL and other spoken abbreviations, tech inspired words, and the increased use of Americanism, are likely to occur.

Linguists have predicted the 'th' sound** could disappear from speech, due to the number of visitors who cannot pronounce it. There will be a simplification of the sound structure of words, many of which will become shorter.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three UK regional accents. Give an example of each. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Name three cities.
- 2) Name the two men.
- 3) What do the men do as a job?
- 4) Name the retailer.
- 5) What is American English? Explain, and give an example.

Student B questions

- 1) What is The Queen's English? Explain, and give an example.
- 2) Give a word with 'th' in it.
- 3) What is immigration?
- 4) Name the communities in London.
- 5) What will become shorter?

** See p2

Category: Education / English Language / English Dialects
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words about the '**Accents and dialects**' *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs choose three advantages of speaking the same language and accent. Write them below. Talk about them!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add three disadvantages of speaking the same language and accent. Talk about them!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs - Student A thinks regional accents are important. *Student B* disagrees! *3 mins.*

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 3

In pairs – Discuss together the reasons why words in regions are rapidly dying out, and being replaced with universal words. Try to give examples. *3 mins.*

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Are accents and dialects disappearing in your country? Explain.
- 3) Have you ever visited Birmingham, Manchester, or Glasgow?
- 4) Can you speak Multicultural London English?
- 5) Do you use speech recognition in everyday life? Explain.
- 6) Should regional accents and dialects be preserved? Explain.
- 7) What is the difference between a regional accent and a dialect?
- 8) Is your English accent like it is, because of the teacher?
- 9) Do you use many abbreviations to communicate?
- 10) Have you learnt anything today?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *English regional accents to die out – urban accents to increase.*

- 1) Someone from the UK.
- 2) A linguistic expert.
- 3) An English teacher.
- 4) Someone visiting the UK.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 3

In pairs/As a class – Are computers destroying English accents and dialects? Discuss together. *3-5 mins.*

SPEAKING - PRESENTATION

Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class.

Prepare a 3-5 minute presentation on

English regional accents to die out – urban accents to increase

Compare: Your Country v The UK

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What type of accent do you have?
- 3) What type of accent do your parents have?
- 4) Which accents do you hate most?
- 5) Which accent is your favourite? Why?
- 6) Do you speak The Queen's English? Why? Why not? Explain.
- 7) How important will voice recognition be in the future?
- 8) Will you be buying an Amazon echo device?
- 9) Is American English becoming more prominent in your country? Explain.
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

** Note: There are 2 sounds recognised in dictionaries associated with 'th' – 'that' and 'thatched'. Try to say both!

GAP FILL: READING

English regional accents to die out – urban accents to increase

A report analysing language trends from the past 50 years has been published by dialect coach, Brendan Gunn, and Dr Dominic Watt of York University, who is a (1)___ expert. The two looked at (2)___ modern cultural influences, to help predict what the future might sound like.

The analysis said that English regional accents are likely to die out in 50 years. Whereas, (3)___ dialects are likely to rise, in big cities like Birmingham, Manchester, and Glasgow. The Queen's English could soon be a thing of the past, due to (4)___ Multicultural London English, which incorporates pronunciations from West African, Caribbean, and Asian communities, will spread across the regions.

Technology will contribute to significant linguistic changes. Voice (5)___ is becoming the main way we (6)___ with machines. Virtual reality assistants will (7)___ speech patterns, and erase (8)___ accents.

regional / influence / interact / urban / major / recognition / immigration / sociolinguistic

Speech will be used more for interaction with digital devices, cars, and household devices. This will smooth out (1)___ Amazon has already started shipping its Echo speaker, which allows families to communicate with household (2)___ through a (3)___ reality assistant.

American English will be increasingly (4)___, due to many computing innovations coming from California. LOL and other spoken (5)___, tech inspired words, and the increased use of Americanism, are likely to (6)___.

Linguists have predicted the 'th' sound could disappear from speech, due to the number of visitors who cannot pronounce it. There will be a (7)___ of the sound (8)___ of words, many of which will become shorter.

simplification / occur / virtual / abbreviations / prominent / devices / accents / structure

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

English regional accents to die out – urban accents to increase

A report analysing language trends from the past 50 years has been published (1)___ dialect coach, Brendan Gunn, and Dr Dominic Watt (2)___ York University, who is a sociolinguistic expert. The two looked (3)___ major modern cultural influences, to help predict what the future might sound like.

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Technology will contribute to significant linguistic changes. Voice recognition is becoming (6)___ main way (7)___ interact with machines. Virtual reality assistants will influence speech patterns, (8)___ erase regional accents.

in / we / at / by / of / a / and / the

Speech will be used (1)___ for interaction (2)___ digital devices, cars, and household devices. This will smooth out accents. Amazon has already started shipping its Echo speaker, (3)___ allows families to communicate with household devices (4)___ a virtual reality assistant.

American English will be increasingly prominent, due to many computing innovations coming from California. LOL and (5)___ spoken abbreviations, tech inspired words, and the increased use of Americanism, are likely to occur.

Linguists have predicted the 'th' sound (6)___ disappear from speech, (7)___ to the number of visitors who cannot pronounce it. There will be a simplification of the sound structure of words, (8)___ of which will become shorter.

many / which / more / could / other / with / through / due



GAP FILL: LISTENING

WRITING/SPELLING

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WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - In pairs/As a class - Draw a map of the UK. List on it, five to ten UK regional accents. Mark on the map where each is spoken. Try a sentence in each. Which is easiest? Which might be the most spoken? Talk about each of them. *3-5 minutes.*

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Regional accents _____
- 2) Urban accents _____
- 3) The Queen’s English _____

3) Write down 50 words about: *English regional accents to die out – urban accents to increase.* Your words can be read out in class.

4) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: ***English regional accents to die out – urban accents to increase.*** Your email can be read out in class.

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) regional
- 2) accents
- 3) urban
- 4) increase
- 5) analysis
- 6) language
- 7) sociolinguistic
- 8) might
- 9) major
- 10) cultural

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

- Pass = 12**
- Good = 15**
- Very good = 18**
- Excellent = 20**

- 11) contribute
- 12) Caribbean
- 13) voice
- 14) interaction
- 15) devices
- 16) communicate
- 17) increasingly
- 18) virtual
- 19) abbreviations
- 20) linguists

English regional accents to die out – urban accents to... – *5th October 2016*