

Transport and dialect

Discussion/dialect

Share the worksheet with pupils and discuss where speakers come from/what they mean, etc.

Dialect words in examples:

Right good (Yorks) = very good

Puddenhead (Cornwall) = fool

Guider (Yorks); cartie (SE Scotland); bogie (Newcastle); dilly (Cornwall) = home-made 4-wheel vehicle.

The dialect words for a sledge (drug, drag, sledge, slide, skids, drey, sleigh), a two-wheel cart (wain, dray, jill, tug, trolley, tug, drug, jim, carrycart) and wheel hubs (master nut, wheel stud, nub, wheel box, nose).

Do you have any other dialect words for any of these things? Other things to do with transport?
Local/ethnic dialect words in general?

Dialect words/Spoken English

Interest in our native dialect and how it differs from Standard English is an excellent introduction to the study of language.

Pupils may know dialect words from their own area/ethnic group; or they may be able to collect them from adults (opportunity for interviewing/taping).

Non-chronological writing

Get pupils to compile a 'dialect dictionary'.

Discussion: accent

Get pupils to try their hand at different accents. What is the difference between an accent and dialect?

Discussion/dialect grammars

Focus on dialect grammars, eg "we was talking" for "we were talking". Pupils must recognise how the grammar of their native dialects differs from that of Standard English. The teaching required in this respect will differ from one part of the country to another, and should arise from a consideration of pupils' and others' dialect variations.

Short story

To read to pupils: 'Spit Nolan' in *The Goalkeeper's Revenge*, Bill Naughton (Puffin).

Rhymes/language

The first rhyme should be sung to the tune of 'She'll be coming round the mountain when she comes'.
The second is best read in a refined Scottish accent, if possible.

What do these rhymes mean? Which words are dialect words? If they were written in Standard English, how would they sound – which words or phrases would change and how? Which do you think fits the poem best – Standard English or the Scottish dialect? Why?

Discussion/language awareness

Standard English is merely a dialect of the English language (originally the dialect of the educated classes in SE England), and of no greater or lesser worth than other dialects. It has, however, been adopted as the dialect in which written English is to be presented. It is also used for speech in formal situations.

What does 'Standard' mean? Why do you think we have a 'standard' form of English? What might happen if everyone wrote in their own dialects? When might you need to speak in Standard English? (When might you speak in your own dialect?)

Accent

The accent which is usually associated with Standard English is known as Received Pronunciation (RP), but nowadays any accent is accepted with Standard English.

Can pupils read aloud the newsreader's speech in accents other than RP? Do you know any Standard English speakers with regional/ethnic accents? (Perhaps some of their teachers?)