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Sixth Form Induction Day

English Language Taster Session



# English Language Taster Session

## Welcome!

**Task:** Complete the *Becoming a Student of English Language* worksheet.

**Challenge:** Consider the following question:  
**What does A-level English Language involve, and what does it mean to be a successful student of English Language?**

What you might study	I know a bit about this but have never studied it	I've studied this	Would like to learn more about it
How children start to say their first words			
The ways in which women and men use language in similar and different ways			
Why everyone has an accent but why some accents are liked more than others			
How social media language has developed rapidly in the last couple of decades			
Where new words come from and why			
Why people in India, Nigeria, USA and New Zealand all have their own ways of speaking English			
How people in conversation interrupt and overlap with each other and how that works			
How slang develops and how it's been around for hundreds of years			
Why some words in the language are particularly offensive and make others feel angry or upset			



# Learning Objectives



To consider what it means to be a successful student of English Language.



To know important information about the course.



To explore and evaluate different viewpoints on language issues.



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# AQA A-level English Language

## Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society

40%

- Textual variations and representations
- Children's language development (0-11 years)
- Methods of language analysis

## Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change

40%

- Language diversity and change
- Methods of language analysis
- Language discourses
- Writing skills

## NEA: Language in Action

20%

- Language investigation
- Original writing
- Methods of language analysis

[A-level English 7702 | Specification | Specification At A Glance | AQA](#)

[AS and A-level English Language Specification Specifications for first teaching in 2015](#)



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Strongly  
disagree

0

5

Strongly  
agree

**To what extent do you agree?**

There are some words that are so offensive,  
they should just be banned.



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Strongly disagree

0

5

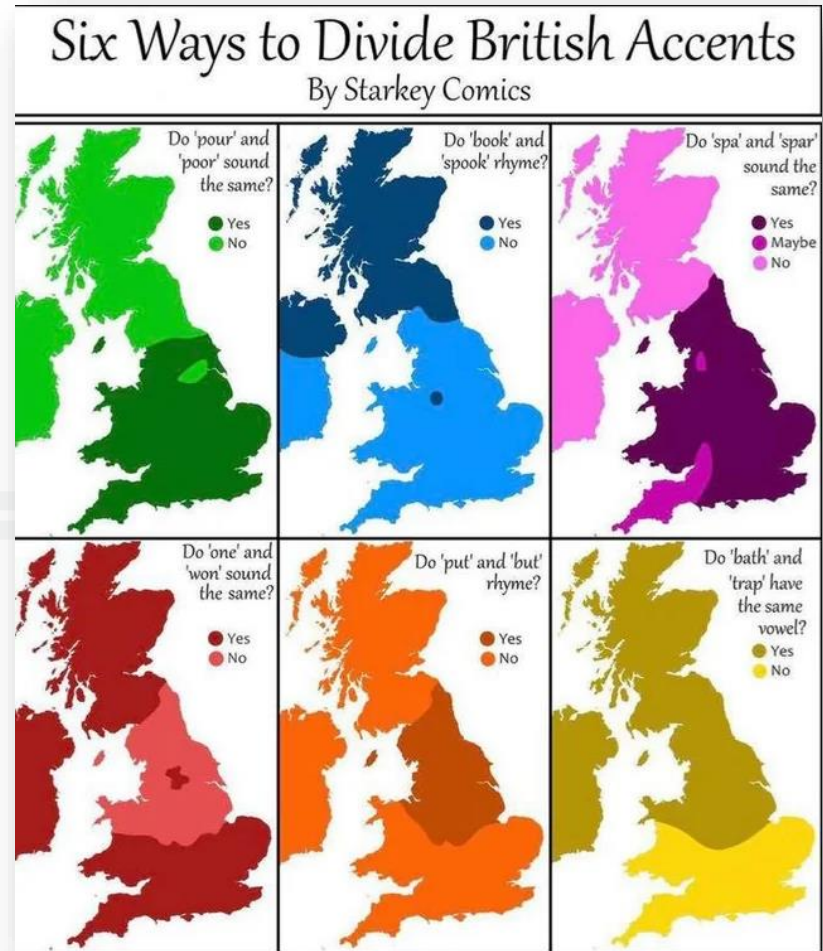
Strongly agree

To what extent do you agree?

Some accents are just better than others; that's a fact of life.



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Strongly disagree

0

5

Strongly agree

## To what extent do you agree?

When you're communicating online, it doesn't matter if you make mistakes or don't follow the normal rules of grammar; as long as people can understand, that's all that matters.



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Strongly  
disagree

0

5

Strongly  
agree

**To what extent do  
you agree?**

Teenagers are the  
biggest influence on  
the development of  
spoken language.



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Strongly disagree

0

5

Strongly agree

## To what extent do you agree?

Interaction with caregivers is the most important influence on a child's language development.



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Strongly  
disagree

0

5

Strongly  
agree

To what extent do  
you agree?  
Gender affects  
language.



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# Top Tips for Studying English Language at A-level

- ✓ **Explore a wide range of texts** including opinion journalism, non-fiction extracts, transcripts and online language to understand how language varies across **contexts**.
- ✓ **Develop a strong understanding of language levels** (e.g., lexis, grammar, discourse, pragmatics) and how they shape meaning.
- ✓ **Build your analytical skills** by breaking down language features, using precise **linguistic terminology** to explore **meanings and representations**.
- ✓ **Engage with current debates about language change, diversity and attitudes**, and evaluate them critically.
- ✓ **Stay up to date with current affairs and language use in the real world**, noticing how people use language in everyday conversations, media and online spaces.
- ✓ **Think critically and form your own viewpoints**, rather than simply accepting others' ideas.
- ✓ **Take an active role in discussions**, sharing ideas and responding to different perspectives.
- ✓ **Use feedback to improve your work** and refine your writing over time.
- ✓ **Stay organised and manage your time effectively** to meet deadlines and balance workload.

# What do I need to do to prepare before September?

1. Over the summer, **complete the transition work**, which can be found on **the website**. Please bring your work, clearly named and titled, to your first lesson in September.
2. Familiarise yourself with the **AQA A-Level English Language specification**: [AS and A-level English Language Specification Specifications for first teaching in 2015](#)
3. **Complete independent reading around the subject**. As well as debating big ideas about the English language, you will be studying what others say about it. Language is constantly discussed online and in the news, with opinion pieces being produced all the time. This is great news for language students because there is a never-ending supply of material to explore. **Your task is to read at least three opinion articles about language**. See the next slide for recommendations.



# Suggested Articles

1. [The subtle ways language shapes us - BBC Culture](#)
2. [The surprisingly subtle ways Microsoft Word has changed how we use language - BBC Future](#)
3. [Isolated for six months, scientists in Antarctica began to develop their own accent - BBC Future](#)
4. [UK accents: it's not what you say, it's how you say it | British Council](#)
5. [What's in a word? How less-gendered language is faring across Europe | Europe | The Guardian](#)
6. [Why it's time to stop worrying about the decline of the English language | Language | The Guardian](#)



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*Emagazine* is a magazine and website for A-level students with articles written by academics, critics, writers, teachers and students on texts and topics set for A-level (and on literature and language more generally). The academy has a subscription. You will need the following log-in details:

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