

ENGLISH DIALECTS. HOW MANY DIALECTS ARE THERE IN ENGLISH AND WHICH ONE IS THE MOST COMMON?

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Abstract: *In this article, we will analyze the dialects of the English language through examples. Also, what is the dialect in this article? How many dialects are there in English? Which dialects are most common in English? We will talk about them during the article. [1]*

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INTRODUCTION


Dialect definition: A dialect is a form of a language that is specific to a particular region or group. What is Dialect? A dialect refers to a branch of a language. Within this branch, different terms are used for different things. Dialects are usually formed around particular regions. However, they may also be used within certain groups of people. For example, in The United States, there is a particular dialect in the Southern states. Within that Southern dialect, however, there may be subgroups who speak yet another dialect. Dialect and accent are two different aspects of language. However, there are some overlaps. An accent is also specific to a region. In English, there might be an American, British, or Australian accent. An accent is an inflection that occurs with word pronunciation. A dialect is entirely different words or ways of communicating altogether. Dialect goes beyond mere pronunciation. An American might pronounce the word, "hello," by speaking the "h" sound. A Brit might pronounce the word, "hello," without speaking the "h" sound. This is still the same word, just spoken with a different accent. Examples of Dialect:

A Northern American might say, "hello."

A Southern American might say, "howdy."

This is an example of the differences in dialect. Different dialects exist in American English, and in all areas of spoken English. There are dialects for each region, in fact. Even if the particular peoples of that region do not think they speak in a dialect, they probably do. Some of the more pronounced American regional





dialects are the Northeastern (East Coast) and Southern dialects. Someone from the East Coast might say, “What’s poppin’?” A Southern American would understand this, but would probably never say it. Someone from the South might say, “How’r y’ll?” A Northeastern American would understand this, but probably never say it. Dialect is used commonly in literature. An author may elect to use dialect if he or she wants to represent the characters well. In order to do so, the author will write dialogue specific to the region of the character. Authors want their characters to seem genuine; therefore, they must write dialogue between characters in such a way as they would speak it. George Bernard Shaw’s *Pygmalion* does this well. A Cockney girl is “adopted” by a well-to-do gentleman who tries to change both her dialect and her accent to Standard British English. For many, this play is difficult to read because the Cockney is only specific to that region. However, if the play were not written with the Cockney dialect, it would not be effective at all. [2]


ANALYSIS OF LITERATURE AND METHODOLOGY

Even though it is impossible to estimate the exact number of dialects in the English language that are spoken around the world, it is estimated that over 160 different English dialects exist around the world. And this number is rapidly increasing thanks to the differences in delivery and pronunciation in local cultures around the world. English has rapidly grown into becoming the global language of communication and business. Thanks to the spread of the culture and subsequent growth of the British Empire, English has become the bridge that is used to communicate by people around the world.

Every single country where English is spoken in some capacity has its own different dialect of English language delivery. This primarily exists thanks to the tendency of humans to personalize the delivery of what they want to convey closer to the accents from their first language. This widespread expansion has witnessed the language evolve from standard British notation to a diverse range of different words that have become part of the language with time. Just like with many languages, the specific accent of English relies heavily on the region that it is spoken in. However, an accent is simply how people pronounce words while a dialect involves not only pronunciations, but also different vocabulary and grammar. This deviation in grammar and vocabulary of the language is referred to as a dialect. Dialects are massively impacted by the first language of the local population. The specific way of delivery over time in a certain region gets to be known as a dialect. [3]

RESULT





What are the Most Common Dialects in the English Language? A wide range of dialects stems from a hybrid combination of oral understanding of the language combined with the personalized delivery of a zone. This has resulted in hundreds of dialects evolving around the world to present a comprehensive global understanding and delivery of the English language. Some of the most commonly spoken dialects of English include those from places like Australia, the US, UK, India, Kenya, Jamaica, and beyond. The dialect in those regions personalizes the delivery of the language by integrating specific cultural phrases and words into the language that are not distinguishable to outsiders. These dialects often vary within different areas of the regions to evolve into sub-dialects. It is estimated by linguistic researchers that deviations in dialects are often observed after distances of 60 Kms. This indicates a major inclination in linguistics to adapt the delivery of the language to integrate local syntax and phrases. [4]

DISCUSS

We recently discussed English slang, in the context of which we observed that there are numerous slang words found within specific regions of the UK and across English as it's spoken in other countries. Such is the variation that it can even give rise to misunderstandings between English-speakers. For example, an English person might say "I'm going to have a root in the wardrobe", meaning that they're going to hunt around in the wardrobe for something; but an Australian would laugh at this because to them, "root" is a rude word. Across the UK, a bread roll might be referred to in different regions as a "bun", a "bap", or a "barm cake", among other things – all essentially the same thing, but referred to differently. It's little wonder that those learning English as a foreign language have problems – so do native speakers! To demonstrate the enormous variety to be found in the way English is spoken in different parts of the country – and the world – we give you three illustrative words and phrases each from a selection of well-known English dialects.


Brummie/Black Country

We start with an accent that doesn't have many fans in the UK. The Birmingham accent – part of the 'Black Country' dialect, which refers to the name given to this part of the Midlands, formerly 'black' from coal mining – is affectionately known as "the Brummie accent".

"Round the Wrekin"

This saying is common in and around the Black Country, including the counties of Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire, Staffordshire and others. It refers to a prominent hill in Shropshire called "the Wrekin" – pronounced "REE-kin" – which can be seen for miles around. The phrase "round the Wrekin" simply





means “to take the long way around”, which could refer to a long route taken when travelling somewhere, or to a long, rambling conversation that takes ages to get to the point.

“Bostin”

The word “bosting” (usually spelt and pronounced “bostin”) is used to describe something brilliant or excellent. It’s actually slang for “broken”, so it’s roughly akin to the general English term “smashing”, which isn’t fixed to a particular dialect.

“Babby”

This technically means “baby”, but you’ll probably find you’re addressed by Brummie folk as such (or by the shortening “bab” or “babs”). It’s a bit like the general word “dear”, as in “How are you bab?”.

“Essex”

The Essex accent is regarded as a milder form of the London accent, but this part of the country has also developed its own set of interesting words and phrases that people elsewhere in the country might not understand. It’s a dialect made famous – or infamous – by the television series *The Only Way is Essex*, with modern Essex sayings (used among the younger generation) including the vulgar “well jell”, which means “very jealous”. There’s more to Essex than this dreadful television show, however, and the phrases below preserve some older sayings from this county.

“Sing-small”

This means “to put up with less than was expected or promised”.

“Narrow-wriggle”

This brilliantly descriptive expression refers to an earwig, a kind of household pest. [5]

CONCLUSION

Define dialect: the definition of dialect is *a linguistic variety peculiar to a particular geographical region or used by members of a specific social class*. In summary, a dialect is a type of language that is spoken by a particular region or group of people.

Dialect is much more broad and far reaching than accent. Most dialects will include with them their own accents, but they are more than mere pronunciation differences. [6]

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