

English Language Induction Work: Phase 2

Examining spoken language

Exploring the reasons for
people changing the way they
speak





In phase 1, we looked at written language, specifically in technological texts. For phase 2, we will be looking at spoken language.

We will be examining the ways in which people change their style of speech and their reasons for doing so.

Can you take a moment to consider the way you communicate.

Do you speak differently on the phone than during face-to-face conversation?

Do you change the words you use, or even their pronunciation to suit the person you are talking to?

THE INDEPENDENT

To get started, I want you to read this article from the Independent newspaper about accent prejudice in the UK

Click [HERE](#) for article

Answer the following questions:

1. According to Dr Rob Drummond, who is more likely to be affected by accentism and why?
2. Why can accentism be an issue, particularly in the workplace?
3. How can a regional accent work in someone's favour in some jobs?

Your turn...

A lot of the work we do in English Language involves looking at opinion journalism and debating the different opinions about language. You will also be writing newspaper articles in the exam and potentially for coursework, so it is important that you get used to them.

We just read an article about how having a regional accent can result in discrimination.

I now want you to find an article of your own (the e-magazine website we used in phase 1 would be really useful for this) that gives us a different opinion about having a regional accent.

You might find an article that discusses the benefits of not having a 'posh' accent or simply an article that gives an idea of the positive traits associated with a Welsh/Birmingham/Liverpool etc accent. Once you have found your article, move on to the next slide.

Write down the title of your article and the publication it came from (usually the name of the website)

In no more than 5 bullet points, summarise what your article tells us about the benefits of having a regional accent.



So we have established that there are benefits and drawbacks of speaking in particular ways.

Your second task is to examine why someone might want to change the way they talk.

We are going to do this by looking at some famous people who did exactly that.

We will begin with Britain's first female Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher. This one is not necessarily about accent, but more about the tone and pitch of her voice.

A bit of context:

Margaret Thatcher was the first female Prime Minister of Britain and was in office from 1979 to 1990.

During her time in power, the Falkland's War broke out in 1982. One of the reasons Argentina felt they could win this war is because they assumed Britain was weak as they had a female leader.

I want you to watch these two videos. Listen really carefully to how she speaks, particularly the tone of her voice. Do not worry about *what* she is saying, focus on *how* she says it. To save you being bored to death, only watch the first couple of minutes of each video.

Here is Margaret Thatcher being interviewed in 1960: [Video 1](#)

Here is Margaret Thatcher being interviewed in 1987: [Video 2](#)



Results:

Difference noticed	In the first video, the tone of Thatcher's voice varied far more than in video 2. She used a higher pitch to emphasise certain words and generally had a much higher voice in the 1960 interview than the one in 1980
Background information	Thatcher wanted to be taken seriously as the UK's first female Prime Minister. She employed image experts to ensure she wore suitable clothes. She also employed a voice coach – part of the job of the voice coach was to make her voice sound deeper and more masculine.
Possible reasons for the change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be taken more seriously on the international stage, Thatcher needed to sound more masculine, so used a lower and more constant tone when speaking. This is the most popular opinion for the change in language style, however, it is important to acknowledge that there might be other reasons.• The context was different – in video 1, she was at home with her children; in video 2, she was being interviewed about policies in a TV studio.• She was 20 years older in the second video and so age might also have played a part in her speech style.

You are now going to do the same for a number of other celebrity examples.

I will give you the context and background information.

I want you to note down the changes you notice in the speech of the person and then come up with some reasons for why they might have done this.

There are quite a few politicians in this – please note that their political views are not what we are looking at here.

Also, there are no correct answers – I just want you to start thinking about the various reasons why someone might want to change how they communicate.



Joey Barton – Liverpudlian footballer

Joey Barton is a footballer from Liverpool. He played in the English Premier League for 10 years before transferring to Marseilles (French football club) in 2012 on loan.

Again, when you watch the videos, just watch the first couple of minutes and focus on the *way* he speaks rather than *what* he says.

Video 1 shows an interview with Barton in 2011: [Video 1](#)

Video 2 shows an interview with Barton after his very first match for Marseilles in 2012: [Video 2](#)

Follow my example with Thatcher – write down the differences in the way he is speaking and try to come up with some suggestions as to WHY these differences are evident.



Madonna – American actor and singer

Madonna is an American – she was born in Michigan in 1958.

In the year 2000, she married British film director, Guy Ritchie, and moved to England.

In these two videos, listen to Madonna's speech:

[Video 1](#) – Interview with Madonna for American TV in 1984

[Video 2](#) – Interview with Madonna on the BBC in 2008

Please note – there is no right answer to these questions, I just want you to think about WHY Madonna might do this. Is it a conscious choice?



George Osborne – Chancellor of the Exchequer from 2010-2016

George Osborne worked as the Conservative Chancellor of the Exchequer under David Cameron. Part of his job was to talk in Parliament and in other formal political environments, and occasionally to make speeches in other contexts.

[Video 1:](#) This is George Osborne talking in front of the Treasury Select Committee about his Budget

[Video 2:](#) This is George Osborne talking in front of Morrisons warehouse workers



Mick Jagger – Lead singer of The Rolling Stones

Mick Jagger was born into a middle class family in a wealthy area of Kent in 1943. He joined the rock band, The Rolling Stones in the early 1960s. At that time, rock music was associated with a 'bad boy' image and songs often contained messages of social unrest and rebellion.

Here is Mick Jagger in an interview in 1965, 2 years into his music career with The Rolling Stones: [Video 1](#)

Here is Mick Jagger in an interview with German TV in 1973, 10 years into his rock career: [Video 2](#)

This one a bit harder than the others, but give it a go. Can you hear a different accent in the second video? How might this help his image as a rock star?



Prince Harry

Prince Harry grew up with Prince William – both went to very exclusive private schools and we can assume they had the same accent as children. It is very difficult to find footage of Harry being interviewed before the age of 18 as he was largely protected from the media. So we will be comparing the speech of William with that of Harry.

In 2005, Harry joined the army and served in Helmand Province in Afghanistan, while William focused on his public life as the 2nd in line to the throne. Harry later dropped his royal title and moved to North America with his wife and daughter.

[Prince William video](#)

[Prince Harry video](#)

Why do you think there are differences in the accents of William and Harry in these two videos? Come up with as many reasons as you can.



Submitting work



As with last time, please submit your completed phase two work via email **to Mrs Scott by Wednesday 14th July** (hls@hardenhuish.wilts.sch.uk)

Thank you!

Take care of yourselves.